

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

Meeting of 9 December 2003

Conference Room A

Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

Chair Maura Eastman called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

### **A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests**

Present: Eastman, Lochtie, Lyons, Miller, McCarthy, Aziz, Jewell, J. Shaffer, and Botzler

Excused absence: Unexcused absence: B. Schaeffer, Graebner Guests: 3

### **B. Approval of Minutes**

Botzler moved (Lochtie seconded) that the 11 November 2003 minutes be accepted as corrected. Passed unanimously

### **C. Public Comment**

1. Two guests reported discrimination of practitioners of Falun Gong and requested that the Commission support the State House of Representatives bill, HR 304.

With permission of the Commission, Eastman raised the topic of finding a replacement for Aziz in the role of Commission secretary. Jewell moved and Shaffer seconded that Botzler serve. Passed unanimously.

### **D. Correspondence, Contact Reports, and Telephone Calls**

1. J. Shaffer reported 2 telephone calls on the Commission voice mail.
  - a. Information was received on resources for homeless people, and referred to Jewell
  - b. A Fortuna man reported harassment by police, but Shaffer was unable to reach him after numerous attempts.
2. Aziz reported 6 telephone calls on the Commission voice mail.
  - a. A Eureka woman complained that Eureka Police Department did not follow up her complaint about others trying to harm her. Referred to Miller
  - b. A request was made for the Commission to support HR 304.
  - c. A call from the Humboldt Beacon requesting information about the Commission meeting announcements was referred to Botzler, who provided the requested information.
  - d. A caller from Launch Pad requested Jewell's contact information to send materials about resources for homeless in Humboldt County.
  - e. A Fortuna caller complained that his life was in danger and the Eureka Police and Sheriff were not assisting. He is going to court and was referred to Redwood Legal Services. Case also referred to Eastman, liaison with Fortuna Police.
  - f. A Fortuna man claimed people connected with the Fortuna Police Department are peeping into his home. Referred to Eastman.
3. Lyons reported four calls.
  - a. A woman reported bias on the part of a judge regarding her request for custody rights for her child. She is awaiting the outcome of a court case and will contact the Commission if she requires more assistance.
  - b. A caller thanked the Commission for its opposition to the Patriot Act
  - c. A woman complaining of a mildew problem was referred to California Legal Services
  - d. An Arcata woman complained of receiving disrespectful treatment and to which Arcata Police Department was not helpful. She did not request specific assistance but wanted to inform the Commission of this case.
4. Miller will meet with the referral received from Aziz this week.
5. Shaffer circulated the Human Rights Month Certificate received from the Arcata City Council. He also reminded everyone of the value of providing lists of phone calls received to the secretary.
6. Byrd noted the presence of the Legal Resource Center at Arcata High School, which includes human rights issues in the work it address. There is an open house on 10 December 2003.

### **E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports**

1. Finance. The current bank balance is \$92.77.
2. Other reports: None

**F. Unfinished Business**

1. Forum. Eastman reminded the Commission of the Human Rights Commission forum to be held on 30 December, 7 to 8:30 pm, at the Mateel Center, as arranged by deLeon, Lochtie, and Shaffer. Seven Commissioners expect to attend.
2. Discussion of the new and revised intake forms will occur in February.
3. Botzler reported on the current status of the subcommittee summarizing local resources for homeless and transient citizens of the area. He, Jewell, and Shaffer will verify the willingness of the remaining organizations to have their names listed. One of the guests also volunteered to assist and will be contacted by Botzler
4. Eastman circulated a phone duty sign-up list and various Commissioners competed for the best dates.

**G. New Business**

1. Shaffer moved that consideration of Commission support for HR 304, .designed to investigate crimes by Chinese communists in the U.S. be referred to the legislative subcommittee. Passed 6 to 1.
2. McCarthy proposed re-establishing the subcommittee structure. There was general support for this idea.
3. Shaffer provided a first draft of a Human Rights Commission calendar for consideration at the January meeting.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Planning Deadline</u>
January	Commission retreat	November
February	North Coast Education Summit	November 15
March	HSU Diversity Conference	January?
April		
May		
June	Commissioners review draft of report to Supervisors	May
July		
August		
September		
October		
November	HSU Campus Dialogue on Race	September?
December	Human Rights Month	October

**H. Adjourn**

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 13 January 2004, 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Botzler, Secretary