

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

Meeting of 10 February 2004

Conference Room A

Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

Chair Maura Eastman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Jewell temporarily recorded minutes until Botzler arrived.

A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests

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

Excused absence: deLeon Unexcused absence: Graebner Guests: 1

B. Approval of Minutes

Shaffer moved (Lyon seconded) that the 13 January 2004 minutes be accepted with minor typographical corrections. Passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment

1. No public comment was received.

D. Correspondence, Contact Reports, and Telephone Calls

1. Jewell will report on the Commission voice mail calls she received next month.
2. Shaffer received 3 calls and additional contacts/announcements
 - a. One person reporting a landlord-tenant dispute could not be reached
 - b. One woman reported her runaway dog shot by a national wildlife refuge ranger at Hookton Slough
 - c. A hate crime was reported and referred to Jewell as liaison with the Sheriff's Department.
 - d. Ralph McFarland, HSU Student Disability Resource Center, was invited to apply for a Commission position.
 - e. Shaffer noted that he had no flier and suggested listing phone monitors on the agenda.
3. Eastman reported correspondences.
 - a. A Falun Gong representative wrote expressing disappointment at the lack of support for HR 304.
 - b. The Commission received a check for \$640.67 from Kathleen Mikkelson, Treasurer, Bay Area Hate Crimes Investigators Association (BAHCIA).
 - c. Jamila Tharp and Karolyn Stein have been appointed as new Commissioners (WELCOME!)
 - d. Eastman received a letter from Supervisor Jimmy Smith that Ralph McCarthy had been removed from the Commission by the Board of Supervisors; this letter was circulated to Commissioners.
4. Aziz reported a motel manager refusing to rent a room to a homeless woman. Schaeffer will check on the pertinent laws on this topic. Miller and Lyon will request a professional representative to make a brief presentation on how the Commission may become more actively involved in homeless issues of the community.
5. Botzler reported on a memo received by way of an American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) member reporting an organizing meeting of the Klu Klux Klan in Ferndale. C. Albright (ACLU) reported that some of the information in the memo was not accurate and that local law enforcement had been informed. Aziz recommended greater involvement of churches, mosques, and synagogues on these matters; the Eureka Ministerial Association was raised as a possibility and Aziz will pursue some of these issues further.

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

1. Finance (Eastman). The current bank balance is \$72.77, prior to deposit of recent \$640.67 BAHCIA check.
2. Law Enforcement Matters (Miller/C. Albright (ACLU))
 - a. Albright is meeting with various law enforcement chiefs and Commission liaisons to assess liaison program and discuss sex offender registration programs. Currently, there is considerable variation on how local law enforcement agencies address the presence of past sex offenders in the community.
 - b. Miller reported that tasers are designed as injury-prevention weapons. Each use by an officer requires a formal report – much as occurs with the use of standard firearms.
3. Independent Observer Program (Miller)

The group is meeting regularly and seeking to raise its profile in the community
4. Outreach and Education Matters (Shaffer)
 - a. Shaffer spoke with Bruce Brown, Channel 12, regarding broadcast of human rights-related videos. Brown has not yet clarified whether the County (and Commission) is eligible to use Channel 12.

- b. Shaffer will talk with Jerri Jones, HSU Multicultural Center, about some cooperative activities between the Center and Commission in the community. Miller, Aziz, and Botzler volunteered to participate too.
5. Calendar review of upcoming events (Shaffer)
 - a. Shaffer noted that May is the deadline to have the Speaker's Bureau and any other Commission supported programs listed in the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) Catalogue of Educational Listings.
6. Other reports and liaisons. None

F. Unfinished Business

1. Botzler presented a revised 3x5 card set of short-term resources that might be of assistance to houseless persons or those travelling through the area on low budgets. Jewell moved (Lochtie seconded) that Botzler be authorized to print up to \$50 worth of these cards; passed unanimously. He also will research additional sources of funding or printing for the cards.
2. Lochtie presented a revised intake form. Jewell moved (Miller seconded) that the new intake form be adopted with minor corrections. Passed unanimously.
3. Eastman again noted that Commissioner Graebner has not responded to inquiries and that the Supervisors have been requested to terminate his appointment.

G. New Business

1. Eastman contacted Nezzie Wade about the possibility of identifying potential interns for the Commission. Eastman will continue to follow up on this matter.
2. Aziz checked with Mr. Ross and reported that the interfaith meeting agenda was filled this year.
3. Most issues of the law enforcement follow-up were addressed by Miller above.
4. The HSU Diversity Conference had more requests for time slots than could be accommodated. The Commission will request a spot on next year's calendar.
5. A tentative date for a Commission social gathering was identified and will be discussed further

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9 March 2004, 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Botzler, Secretary