

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

DRAFT

Meeting of 14 September 2004

Conference Room A

Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

Chair Maura Eastman called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Eastman, Lochtie, Lyons, Aziz, Stein, Miller, B. Shaeffer, Jewell, Tharp, and Botzler

Excused absence: deLeon, J. Shaffer,

Unexcused absence: None

Guests: 3

B. Approval of Minutes

Stein moved (Jewell seconded) that both the 13 July 2004 and 10 August 2004 minutes be accepted as written, with minor correction. Passed unanimously, with one abstention

C. Public Comment

1. One guest expressed pleasure that the Patriot Act resolution recently was passed by the Supervisors. However, she expressed concern about Supervisor Rodoni's change of the word "person" to "citizen" in the resolution; she viewed this as a disservice to noncitizens who often are more vulnerable in our society.
2. A guest expressed concern about the possible implementation of a draft after the coming presidential election in November and distributed a copy of Daniel Webster's 1814 speech regarding conscription to Congress.

D. Correspondence, Contact Reports, and Telephone Calls

1. B. Shaeffer reported on four calls received since the last meeting. These included a complaint about Eureka Police Department and Arcata Police Department law enforcement officers purportedly being on drugs, another complaint about Blue Lake Police Department, a call about an unresolved murder case as well as a call for information from the Eureka Reporter.
2. Lochtie informed the Commission about a League of Women Voter's discussion series on "American Power and Global Security" being held on 23 September 2004 at College of the Redwoods
3. Stein provided a list of additional telephone numbers for community resources.
4. Eastman reported several phone calls
 - a. Eastman will meet together with the Ferndale police chief and a man who was not satisfied with the chief's response to a complaint he had filed with Ferndale Police Department.
 - b. Eastman noted the invoice for membership with the California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO) and will ask the Commission to decide on whether to review our membership.
5. Phone list for coming weeks.

Eastman	1 to 15 September 2004
Miller	16 to 30 September
Lochtie	1 to 15s October
Tharp	16 to 31 October
Stein	1 to 15 November
Botzler	15 to 31 November
	1 to 15 December
Aziz	16 to 30 December
Lyons	1 to 15 January 2005
B. Shaeffer	16 to 31 January

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

1. Finance (Eastman). The current bank balance is \$713.49; there has been no change in the past month.
2. Law Enforcement Matters
 - a. Randy Mendosa currently is chair of Law Enforcement Chiefs of Humboldt County (LECAH)
 - b. Commissioners Stein and Tharp, as well as Christina Allbright (ACLU) met in early July and noted an absence of concrete information about the telephone calls received by the Commission on law enforcement complaints.
 - c. Tharp proposed that establishing a citizen's review board on law enforcement should not necessarily wait until a clear problem was identified. The proposal generated considerable discussion. Tharp proposed that the establishment of a police review board should be advocated to the Supervisors.

- d. Stein will set up a meeting of interested Commission members to meet and define the role of a law enforcement committee of the Commission and discuss the possibility of a review board for Humboldt County. The intent is to establish priorities, collect and organize the available information, and make recommendations to the Commission.
3. Independent Observer Program (Miller)

The group recently met with Cindy Allsbrooks, Gypsy Chain's mother, and Jeny Kard. There recently was some confrontation with environmentalists on PALCO property in the Mattole Valley. Those interested in the Independent Observer Program (IOP) can contact Christina Allbright (707-476-1270). The next IOP meeting will be at noon, 28 September.
4. Outreach and Education Matters (Shaffer)
 - a. Lochtie volunteered to speak on 3 November 2004 to a College of the Redwoods class on behalf of the Commission
 - b. Botzler will distribute the English and Spanish language cards for distribution to various organizations coming in contact with homeless members of the community. He also will send a current version of the Speaker's Bureau list for assessment by Commission members.
 - c. B. Shaeffer is working on a radio show that the Commission can use to inform the public about human rights matters.
 - d. Stein reported that she is learning how to use video cameras for taping at the Supervisor's chambers in the County Courthouse and is hoping to apply those skills on behalf of the Commission for work on Channel 10.
5. Calendar review of upcoming events (J. Shaffer)
 - a. No report was available this month

F. Unfinished Business

1. Eastman reported that the new public service announcements (PSAs) were not compatible with the local TV station hardware. The correct video sizes will need to be found. KHUM did volunteer to run the audio portions of the PSAs.
2. Eastman reported that the annual report to the Supervisors is not yet completed.
3. No new information was reported on the issue of same-sex marriage as it pertains to Humboldt County.
4. No new information was presented regarding the use of surveillance cameras in Humboldt County.
5. Discussion about the law enforcement liaison-mentoring program for Commissioners will be incorporated into the LECAH committee meeting being organized by Stein.
6. Eastman still is pursuing the possibility of a student intern at HSU. C. Allbright (ACLU) also volunteered providing the names of possible candidates.
7. No new information was available on a periodic column in the Times-Standard and other media.
8. A note was made by the Commission of the supportive Times-Standard editorial concerning the Supervisor's passage of the Patriot Act Resolution.

G. New Business

1. Entry to the Courthouse item was postponed until J. Shaffer is able to return next month
2. On behalf of the Commission, C. Allbright will invite Jake Smith from Northern California Legal Services to inform the Commission of the services provided by his organization.
3. Stein informed the Commission of an anonymous organization that is willing to print additional homeless resource cards very inexpensively. This source will be used for further printings, as needed.
4. Jewell informed the Commission of her need to resign. There were numerous expressions of regret as well as appreciation for her years of service.

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12 October 2004, 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Botzler, Secretary