

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC)
MINUTES

Meeting of 12 July 2005

Conference Room A

Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

Acting chair Byrd Lochtie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Lochtie, Lyons, Miller, Aziz, J. Shaffer, Tharp, B. Shaeffer, Orr, and Botzler

Excused absence: Filar, Unexcused absence: Lyons Guests: 9
New Commissioners appointed (not in attendance): Jerryl Lynn Rubin,
James W. Cernohlavek, and Bonnie Jackson

B. Approval of Minutes

J. Shaffer moved (Miller seconded) that the 14 June 2005 minutes be accepted with minor corrections. Passed unanimously.

Special item: John Woolley was out of town and could not attend this month's meeting. He may be rescheduled for a later meeting

C. Public Comment

1. Christina Allbright, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) chair, reminded that the Human Rights Commission would be awarded the ACLU 2005 Patriot Award for their community work on July 21, Red Lion Inn, 6 to 9 pm.

2. One guest expressed appreciation to the Commission for the support of the same-sex civil marriage resolution with the Board of Supervisors, and urged the Commission to continue education of the public on this matter.

D. Correspondence, Contact Reports, and Telephone Calls

1. Phone line reports

A. Lochtie summary of calls

1. One call concerning rights of patient being held in a psychiatric ward against his will. Referred to the Senior Resource Center and Legal Services of Northern California

2. One call from Arcata Endeavor requesting more homeless resource cards. Botzler delivered some.

3. One call requesting an internet search for attorneys doing pro bono work in the San Francisco or Sacramento region. Filar volunteered to work further with the woman.

4. One call concerned with harassment at a residence. Was unable to make further contact.

5. One call requesting information on becoming a Commission member

6. One call informing us that the night shelter is no longer available at Arcata Endeavor.

B. B. Shaeffer summary of calls will be presented at the next meeting.

C. Other contacts.

1. Lochtie reported that William Timm currently is in China in an effort to develop stronger relations with China regarding Falun Gong.

Phone list for coming weeks.

B. Shaeffer	1 to 15 July	Miller	1 to 15 October
Botzler	16 to 31 July	(Open)	16 to 31 October
Orr	1 to 15 August	Tharp	1 to 15 November
J. Shaffer	16 to 31 August	(Open)	16 to 31 November
B. Shaeffer	1 to 15 September	Aziz	1 to 15 December
Orr	16 to 30 September	(Open)	16 to 31 December

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

1. Finance (J. Shaffer). There is \$1136.32 in the current Commission account.

2. Law Enforcement Matters (Miller)

No new information.

3. Independent Observer Program (IOP). Christina Allbright (IOP chair) will meet with other members on 14 July 2005 to discuss the final version of the annual IOP report for the Supervisors

4. Outreach and Education Matters (Shaffer)

a. No report

F. Unfinished Business

1. Acting chair Lochtie proposed that when the annual report of the commission is presented to the Board of Supervisors, she will make note to them that we are waiting to hear from them regarding the same sex civil marriage proposal. Lochtie also will ask about the recommendation to change a word in the Patriot Act Resolution. C. Allbright, ACLU chair, also informed the Commission that the ACLU wrote a letter to the Board supporting the Commission proposal.

2. Web site (<http://www.humboldthumanrights.org/>) modification (Miller). Almost all provided information is on line. The site has an effective search engine and one can ascertain some information from those selecting the site. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Chair will decide which information is added to the website. Tharp recommended that the same-sex civil marriage resolution and cover letter be added. Lochtie will provide that to Miller. Additional community resource numbers also were considered good topics to add. Miller also is monitoring the e-mails and Lochtie requested that pertinent e-mails be treated as "intakes." B. Shaeffer suggested rotating e-mail monitoring among the members. Lochtie thanked Miller for all his work on this while the commissioners applauded Miller.

3. At will employment agreements. Botzler met with B. Nordstrom,

Humboldt State University, to discuss the issue of at-will agreements. Nordstrom also produced a letter from the University Center attorneys noting that California is an "at-will state," and that all policies are completely in line with state regulations; the attorneys also noted that claims of conflict with California Education Code are not correct. Nordstrom also noted that this individual has contacted several major state and federal agencies, as well as pertinent legislators, and has not received any support from them. Lochtie suggested that no further action be taken.

4. The proposed standardized form for collecting information from callers using the Commission telephone line will be further tested by B. Shaeffer and Botzler during their turns on the Commission phone lines. .

5. Tharp reported that additional inquiries have been made for public service announcements on the topics of racism, anti-Semitism, and homophobia.

6. Tharp reported no further articles in progress on articles for local media. Several topics were discussed. Any drafts would be sent to all members.

7. Filar will check on whether the toll-free number also can be used by local residents (e.g., prison inmates).

8. Some discussion on the use of the funds in the treasury occurred. Several suggestions were considered, including the development of a logo for the Commission.

G. New Business

1. Lochtie gave a summary of the information to be included in the annual commission report to the Board of Supervisors. After discussion and agreement, the rest of the commissioners instructed Lochtie to complete the report and submit it to the Board of Supervisors as soon as possible.

2. After some discussion (and occasional humor), the following officers were nominated

- a. Chair: Lochtie
- b. Vice chair Botzler
- c. Secretary B. Shaeffer
- d. Treasurer J. Shaffer

Tharp moved (Orr seconded) that these commissioners be accepted as the new officers. Passed unanimously

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned 7:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9 August 2005, 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Botzler, Secretary