

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES
Meeting of 9 August 2005
Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka California

Co-Chair Rick Botzler called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

A. Attendance and Guests

Commissioners Present: Botzler, Shaffer, Miller, Aziz, Orr, Cernohlavek, Shaeffer.

Commissioners Absent: Lyons(excused), Filar (excused), Tharp (excused), Lochtie (excused), Jackson, Rubin.

B. Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously (Cernohlavek / Shaeffer).

C. Public Comment

None.

D. Correspondence Reports

a. Phone Line Reports

Botzler summary of calls (July 16- July 31)

Orr summary of calls (Aug 1- Aug 9): A person called to complain about employment discrimination at a local tribal casino. Orr recommended the person contact the tribal council. A person called regarding mistreatment by doctors at Mad River Hospital and Sempervirens.

b. Other Contacts

Shaffer reported that he spoke to Mr. Clark regarding Humboldt State University's response to the Commission's letter in regarding at-will employment contracts on campus. There is a question as to whether Mr. Clark has a right to see the letter; Botzler will follow up.

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

a. Finance (Shaffer). There is \$1132 in the checking account. The bill for the 800 number telephone line was approximately \$4.

b. Law Enforcement (Miller). Miller spoke with Christina Allbright of the ACLU about the possibility of forming a citizens police review board.

c. Independent Observers Program (Miller). Botzler attended the last meeting with Christina Allbright. There will be no further meetings until further notice.

d. Outreach and Education (Shaffer / Shaeffer). Nothing to report.

e. Website (Miller). Miller suggested that a current events calendar be added to the website. Botzler suggested that the web address should be added to the HRC brochure. There was general agreement on both suggestions.

F. Unfinished Business

a. Botzler reported that Chair Lochtie presented the annual report of the HRC to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Lochtie asked the BOS about its stance on the Resolution on Same Sex Marriage and about the change of the word 'resident' to the word 'citizen' in the Patriot Act Resolution. Supervisor Wooley proposed forming a committee to discuss the Resolution on Same-Sex Marriage. Discussion of possible HRC involvement in that committee was placed on the September 2005 agenda.

b. Botzler reported that the committee to discuss possible presentations for the Northcoast Education Summit has not yet met. Botzler invited other Commissioners to take part in the committee. The Commissioners discussed possible presentation topics.

G. New Business

a. The Commission reaffirmed the policy that the Chair is the official spokesperson for the HRC. The Chair may designate another Commissioner to speak for the HRC.

b. Miller will write a letter to the Eureka Reporter urging them to change their editorial policy with regard to hate-speech directed at persons because of their sexual orientation. Further discussion was placed on the September 2005 agenda.

c. The Commission discussed some possible modifications to the resource cards, including adding the HRC's web address. Further discussion was placed on the September 2005 agenda.

d. Cernohlavek suggested the Commission discuss the Death with Dignity Act. Discussion was placed on the September 2005 agenda.

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 12, 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka CA.