

Minutes

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
April 12, 2004.

Members present: R. Botzler, M. Filar, M. Orr, J. Tharp,
B. Shaeffer, A. Aziz, L. Miller, J. Lyons, J. Shaffer.
Members absent: B. Lotchie (excused).

Interim Chair Botzler called the meeting to order at 6:00.

Approval of minutes for March 2005 moved to May
(Shaffer/Miller). Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comments: There were eight guests.

One person complained about a confrontation with a
veterinarian.

Christina Allbright of the ACLU reported that the scheduled
speaker from Legal Services of Northern California could
not attend but would try to attend in May.

Contacts:

Tharp reported she will give a workshop at McKinleyville
High School.

Shaffer reported he will give a presentation on hate crimes
at McKinleyville High School.

The schedule for phone duties is as follows: Shaffer
(4/16-4/31); Orr (5/1-15); Miller (5/16-31).

Committee / Liaison Reports:

Shaffer reported \$1150.32 in the treasury.

Miller reported that the Commission needs liaisons for
local police departments. Complaints about police conduct
should be relayed to Miller. The Independent Observers
Program planned to have observers at the peace march in
April.

Allbright reported that sex offenders released from prison
were asked inappropriate questions by local police. The
Arcata police department and some others have agreed to
refrain from the practice.

"Outreach and Education Matters" is to be taken off future agendas.

Tharp volunteered to follow up on the possibility of expanding the HRC; Tharp reported on the possibility of obtaining grants for HRC issues. Such grants would have to go toward specific targets. Tharp suggested that one possible use of grant money would be for sensitivity training for local police in dealing with hate crimes.

Unfinished Business:

The Commission discussed strategies for presenting the Same Sex Marriage proposal to the Board of Supervisors. The Commission decided to make personal contacts with each of the members of the Board of Supervisors, and to report on those contacts at the May meeting. Liaisons will meet before next meeting to discuss meetings and draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors.

Miller reported that he is in the process of modifying the website.

Shaffer reported on the at-will employment issue at Humboldt State University. It was decided unanimously (Shaffer/Tharp) that the Commission would send a letter of inquiry to the auxiliary organizations at HSU (with a copy to be sent to President Rollin Richmond), inquiring into the apparent conflict between the California State Education Code and the Employee Handbook as it relates to at-will employment. The letter will be drafted by George Clark and sent to Botzler, who will present it to the Commission for approval. Clark's original letter lodging the complaint with the Commission will be appended to this letter.

Tharp reported that local news Channel 3 has copies of the Commission's Public Service Announcements and will air them in a few weeks.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. (Shaeffer/Filar).

Respectfully submitted,
B. Shaeffer