

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HCHRC) MINUTES  
Meeting of 10 January 2006  
Conference Room A  
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka California

**A. Attendance and Introductions**

Chair Lochtie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Lochtie, Shaeffer, Miller, Lyons, Shaffer, Ward, Orr, Botzler, Aziz, Rubin.

Members absent: Jackson, Tharp(**excused**), Filar(**excused**).

There were three guests.

**B. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of 13 December 2005 were approved unanimously with one correction. (Ward/Lyons).

**C. Public Comment**

1. Christina Allbright of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) reported that the first homeless court will be held Friday, January 13, 3 p.m., St. Vincent's Dining Facility.
2. Ward introduced Diana Lubitz (a student who was an intern at Sempervirens) and Lea Nagy from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) to discuss mental health training for commissioners and the process of admitting persons to Sempervirens under a "5150" designation.

**D. Correspondence Reports**

1. Lochtie met with the public official to whom the commission sent a letter regarding his alleged harassment of his neighbors. The person said: "I believe this is settled, everything is at peace, and I would like it to stay that way."
2. Shaffer spoke with the Unitarian Fellowship regarding prejudice.
3. Lochtie reported that KHUM has a video of a play depicting the case of Matthew Shepard. Lochtie proposed that the HRC obtain a copy and show it publicly. Ward will follow up on the possibility of a partnership with Humboldt State University.

**E. Committee, Liaison, and Case Reports**

1. Finance (Shaffer). \$1083.52 less \$12 for the 800 number. The Commission will discuss whether to maintain the 800 number or to ask the Board of Supervisors to pay for it. Lochtie will discuss with the Board of Supervisors.
2. Law Enforcement Matters (Miller). Miller will make an appointment for the Commission to tour the jail some time in February.
3. Independent Observers Program (Miller). Nothing to report.
4. Outreach and Education (Shaffer/Shaeffer). Shaeffer reported that the letter to the local media regarding December being Human Rights Month was sent; Shaeffer will attempt to find contacts

for Hoopa-based media and send a revised copy.

- a) *Public Service Announcements* (Filar/Tharp). Both absent.
- b) *Periodic Column in Local Media* (Shaeffer/Tharp). Nothing to report.
- c) *Cox Media Center* (Lochtie). The target date for the completion of the building is next fall. By the end of this month the six appointed board members will be announced.
- d) *Same Sex Marriage Resolution* (Lochtie). To be removed from February agenda.

5. Website (Ward). Ward reported that the yearly fee of \$20 for the domain name is due at the end of January. It was decided unanimously to purchase the domain name for three years (Botzler/Miller).

## **F. Unfinished Business**

1. Report on Neo-Nazi Activity (Shaffer). Shaffer has still not had a response from Kim Glory at HSU. Shaffer spoke to members of several local police departments, none of whom have heard any reports of such activity. One suggested that the Commission contact the Fortuna Police Department. The Commission has no liaison to the Fortuna Police Department.

2. Northcoast Education Summit (Botzler). The committee proposal is entitled "Sticks and Stones: Words Can Break Bones". Botzler distributed a description of the presentation. The presentation will be Sunday, February 5, Founder's Hall 203 at Humboldt State University. The committee will meet at 6:00 p.m., January 18 at Lyons' house.

3. Coalition for Police Review (CPR) (Miller). CPR will meet January 11, 6:30 p.m., 917 3rd St. in Eureka.

4. Intern (Ward). Nothing to report. **Moved to Committee Reports for February agenda.**

## **G. New Business**

1. Mental Health Training (Ward). Discussed during Public Comment.

2. Eureka Jail Tour/Grand Jury Report (Miller). Discussed during Correspondence Reports.

3. Letter commending KHUM (Lochtie). Written and sent.

4. Phone Line: Request Board of Supervisors Pay (Lochtie). Discussed under Finance Report. **Moved to February agenda.**

5. Recognitions (Shaffer). Nothing to report. **Moved to Committee Reports for February agenda.**

6. Retreat. Tentative date is January 28, 10 a.m., at Botzler's house. The style is potluck. Commissioners should e-mail Lochtie with suggestions for the agenda by Thursday prior to the meeting.

7. Resource Cards (Botzler). Botzler has updated the cards. The Commission discussed ways to determine whether the cards are useful; Christina Allbright volunteered to distribute cards at the Homeless Court. **Moved to retreat agenda.**

7. Miller reported on Jerome Bearbower's program for teaching human rights to children. Miller found the program "unrealistic". Miller reviewed the syllabus, etc.

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49.