

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HCHRC) MINUTES
Meeting of 14 February, 2006
Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introductions

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

Members Present: Lochtie, Shaeffer, Miller, Lyons, Aziz, Ward, Filar, Botzler, Rubin, Ferguson (intern).

Members absent: Orr.

There were two guests.

B. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of January 10, 2006 approved unanimously (Botzler/Filar).

C. Public Comment.

There were no public comments.

D. Correspondence Reports

1. A person who is interested in joining the commission contacted Lochtie. Shaeffer will send her an application and details.
2. A student at HSU who is working on a Cesar Chavez event and wanted to know if the HRC is interested in participating contacted Lochtie.
3. Botzler: Last month noticed that a swastika had been spray-painted on the walk-way of the bridge crossing over the Mad River on the Hammond Trail. I informed the Sheriff's Department and also contacted County Roads. The Sheriff's Department receptionist said she would request a little more surveillance by their staff (not noticed yet from my house when I've been home). County staff did come out and make a partial sanding/scraping of the spray paint. Currently it is a fainter swastika with evident signs of someone trying to clean it up.

E. Committee, Liaison and Case Reports

1. **Finance** (Shaffer). There is \$991.51 in the checking account after paying for the phone line and computer consultation.
2. **Law Enforcement** (Miller). Miller has scheduled a tour of the Eureka Jail; the tentative date is March 14 at 4:30.
3. **Independent Observers Program** (Miller). Nothing to report. **Removed from March agenda.**
4. **Outreach and Educations** (Shaffer/Shaeffer). Nothing to report.
 - a. *Public Service Announcements*. Nothing to report.
 - b. *Periodic Column* (Tharp). Tharp asked for suggestions about a topic. Ward suggested something regarding the right to a living wage.
 - c. *Cox Media Center* (Lochtie). The Board is expected to meet at the end of February or the beginning of March.
5. **E-mail** (Miller). Miller received a housing complaint from Fortuna. There was an e-mail concerning the ongoing legal complaint against a local brewery regarding their use of a religious icon on their labels. A person wanted a speaker for the Fortuna Adult School; Miller recommended she contact the Commission by phone, but the person has not followed up.
6. **Web Site** (Ward). Nothing to report.
7. **Intern** (Ward). The new intern is Christine Ferguson, who is a social work student at HSU.

She will work 60 hours for the Commission.

8. Recognitions (HRC). Botzler will write a letter of recognition to the organizers of the Northcoast Education Summit and a separate letter to the local media. It was decided that besides writing commendation letters to particular individuals or organizations, the Commission should send a press release to the local media as well alerting them to the commendations. The citation will also be noted on the HRC website.

F. Unfinished Business

1. Eureka Jail Tour (Miller). Discussed under Law Enforcement.

2. Grand Jury Report (Miller). Moved to New Business.

3. Northcoast Education Summit. Five Commissioners (Lyons, Lochtie, Ward, Botzler, and Tharp) participated. All the Commissioners involved thought the event was very successful.

4. Phone Line: Request Board of Supervisors to Pay. Lochtie wrote a letter to the budgeting committee asking for them to pay for the 800 number and the website. No response as yet.

Shaffer reported that we have received 9 calls since 14 July 2005. Two of the calls were from telemarketers; two were from Commissioners. The bill amounts to \$8.53 per call received.

Shaffer recommended stopping the service given its limited usage. Tharp/Ward will write a letter to the local media announcing the existence of the number; it will be included in the monthly service announcements to the local media and posted on the HRC website. The number 877-268-2548.

G. New Business

1. Speakers for Fortuna Adult School. See E-Mail.

2. Letter to grand jury: re conditions at Eureka Jail. Miller will research and write a draft letter after the March tour of the Jail. **Moved to April Agenda.**

3. Monthly Speakers: professionals dealing with human rights issues. Filar spoke with Patty Berg's office about the possibility of having a representative of her office speak at the March meeting in support of "compassionate choice" proposition. **Will be placed on March agenda if a speaker is available.** Filar will try to schedule someone to speak against the proposition in April.

4. Possible Structural Changes to HRC. The Commission discussed the possibility of getting community volunteers to work with the HRC. The Commission discussed the possibility of having a representative at the Humboldt Net, which meets once a month on Thursday afternoons. Ward/Botzler will investigate and report. **Moved to May agenda.**

5. Commission Representative to MLK Jr. Day Events. Lyons spoke with the President of the NAACP. The Commission will be added to the calendar of speakers for next year's event.

6. Yearly Calendar. To be moved to Committee Reports/Intern for March.

7. Resource Cards Update. To be moved to Committee Reports/Intern for March.

8. KKK Activity in Humboldt County (Shaffer). Shaffer reported that he spoke to Kim Glory at HSU; there are reports of such activity in Crescent City but Glory knew of none in Humboldt.

Rubin will follow-up on the vandalization of Temple Beth-El in Eureka. **Moved to March Agenda.**

9. Transportation: Lyons spoke with the local casinos regarding bus service; the casinos are no longer providing general service. Ward will investigate the possibility of a free transportation day in Eureka. **Moved to April agenda.**

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25.