

# HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HCHRC) MINUTES

Meeting of 13 June 2006

Conference Room A

Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka California

## **A. Attendance and Introductions**

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

Members present: Botzler, Filar, Ward, Tharp, Miller, Shaeffer, Aziz, Shaffer.

Members absent: Lyons (excused), Lochtie (excused), Rubin.

There was one guest.

## **B. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the meeting of 9 May 2006 were approved unanimously with three changes (Filar/Miller).

## **C. Public Comments**

The guest wanted to know the phone number for the HRC.

## **D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and Contact Reports**

Miller received an e-mail from Jerome Bearbower complaining about Miller's claim, noted in the January minutes, that Bearbower's program for teaching racial tolerance was unrealistic. Miller noted that although he thinks the program is unrealistic, it is essentially a good idea.

Phone calls (Aziz 5/16-5/31): A woman called: I have been calling HRC frequently but nobody has helped. She is mobility impaired, her brother was assaulted, lawyer and sheriff were involved. She says she has been discriminated against and treated like dirt. Action taken: passed to Larry Miller, who spoke further with the woman.

A woman called wanting a return call. Action taken: called back; talked with her mother and asked her to let me know when the caller would be available. No call back after that.

A man from Eureka called to complain of a noisy neighbor. He said he was contacting the police because he was threatened. Action taken: asked him to call back after he spoke with the police.

Bonnie called from County Administrative Office. She wants receipts to disburse HRC telephone and internet bill. Action taken: informed Lochtie.

A woman called from Eureka. Her son was murdered last year. Action taken: called back, left message, no response.

## E. Committee, Liaison, and Case Reports

1. **Finance** (Shaffer): Shaffer gave receipts for internet and telephone to county. There is \$965.48 in the checking account.
2. **Law Enforcement/CPR** (Miller): Nothing to report.
3. **Outreach and Education**
  - a. **Public Service Announcements:** Nothing to report.
  - b. **Periodic Columns:** Nothing to report.
  - c. **Cox media center:** Nothing to report.
4. **Web Site** (Ward): Nothing to report.
5. **Recognitions:** The Commission discussed one possible candidate. Commissioners will research the person's background. **Moved to July agenda.**
6. **Intern** (Ward): Ferguson has completed the hours designated for intern work for the HRC. Ferguson updated the HRC brochure, helped coordinate the Day of Silence, and reformatted the resource cards.

## F. Unfinished Business

1. **Reply from BOS regarding police shooting/reimbursement for telephone costs:** The Commission received a letter from Supervisor Wooley stating that he has made an attempt to facilitate better communication between Mental Health Services and the police. He will also try to reimburse the HRC for the telephone bill.
2. **Eureka jail letter:** Miller reported that the letter is not yet ready for review. Miller and Lyons met with Donna Wheeler, the new director of Mental Health Services. They discussed protocol for a safety cell at the jail; a report from Mary Johnson is due in July. Persons in mental health crisis can be connected with Mary Johnson at 269-2967. Miller distributed copies of the sign giving the HRC phone number to be placed in a common area of the jail. Inmates will be allowed to call the local HRC number. Such calls should be referred to Miller. **Moved to July agenda.**
3. **Humboldt.net.** Lochtie attended, will report in July. **Moved to July agenda.**

## G. New Business

1. **Anti-gay incident at local high school:** Tharp will research new law regarding hate crimes on school campuses and report in July. **Moved to July agenda.**
2. **Schedule the election of officers on July 2006 agenda.** Done. **Moved to July agenda.**
3. **Rubin Resignation.** It is unclear whether Rubin will resign. **Moved to July agenda.**
4. **Annual Report:** Lochtie absent. **Moved to July agenda.**
5. **Resource Cards:** The resource cards have a new tri-fold design. Ward will e-mail copies to Commissioners. **Moved to July agenda.**

## H. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m..