

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

Meeting of 10 October 2006

Conference Room A

Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

Chair Botzler called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Lyons, Miller, J. Shaffer, Ward, Tharp, Botzler, Lochtie

Excused absence: M. Filar, A. Aziz, J. Munsee. Unexcused absence: B. Shaeffer Guests: none

B. Approval of Minutes

Motion (Shaffer) and *second* (Miller) that the September 12th, 2006 minutes be approved as presented. *Motion Passes.*

C. Public Comment

The guest speaker, Rose Rodriguez, was not in attendance. Lochtie stated that she will contact Ms. Rodriguez to schedule attendance at a future meeting.

Botzler reports that Christina Allbright was in contact with him and she shared that the ACLU is working on the habeas corpus packets for jail inmates and that she conversed with Jerome Bearbower at the Redwood Peace and Justice center about human rights education projects.

D. Correspondence, Contact Reports, and Telephone Calls

1. Phone line reports

Miller received a request from the Humboldt Community Switchboard for resource cards.

2. Other correspondence

The form suggestion for commissioner applications was submitted by Botzler to John Wooley. No response has been received yet. There was also discussion about picking up mail for the commission and Botzler stated that he will arrange for getting the mail.

Ward distributed the new resource cards. Tharp stated that she may have reimbursement for the printing costs available through St. Joseph's Hospital and Ward provided Tharp with a copy of the printing cost receipt.

Phone list for coming weeks.

Tharp	1 to 15 September	Munsee	1 to 15 November
Filar	16 to 30 September	Botzler	16 to 31 November
Miller	1 to 15 October	Aziz	1 to 15 December
Lyons	16 to 31 October	Tharp	16 to 31 December
		Shaffer	1 to 10 / 26 to 31 January
		Lochtie	11 to 25 January

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

1. Finance (J. Shaffer) There is \$640.51 in the current Commission account after accounting for the payment for the printing of new resource cards. Ward gave a receipt for the printing costs to Shaffer.

2. Law Enforcement Matters (Miller)

Miller reported that there have been 15 calls from county jail inmates on the commission voice mail this month. He stated that he has visited inmates at the jail multiple times as follow up to their calls. He learned that calls from the jail to the commission can be recorded by jail staff. There was extensive discussion about the best use of the commission's time in serving jail inmates, whether the sign should be revised and if there should be encouragement for inmates to contact the commission in writing instead of by phone. It was determined that Miller will evaluate the information available and be prepared with a recommendation at the next meeting.

3. Outreach and Education Matters

a. Public Service Announcements – No new information to report.

b. Periodic Columns – Tharp suggested a column or response of some sort to James Dobson's regular guest editorial in the Eureka Reporter. A discussion about whether to respond and what the appropriate type of response should be took place. It was suggested and agreed that the commission recommend that another guest editorial author be added that provides a point/counterpoint perspective. Tharp stated that she will prepare the information needed to give to the newspaper. Botzler requested that after feedback during the month on the draft, a final version be brought back to the next Commission meeting. Ward stated that she will look for some editorial writers to propose.

c. Cox Media Center (Lochtie) – An executive director was hired and there is no target date yet for the center to open.

Lyons reported that he met with Keith Snow-Flamer, the new VP of Student Services and Learning Support. Lyons states that Mr. Snow-Flamer is a good community contact for the future.

4. Web site (Ward) A community recognitions page was added to the website.
5. Recognition. No recognitions were proposed at this time.
6. Intern. (Ward) No contacts from prospective interns have been received.
7. Calendar.

Tharp reports that an event for Marriage Equality will be held on February 16th, 2007. She will provide additional details as the date comes closer.

Botzler commented that the Diversity Plan action council is also working on an event calendar.

Human rights month is coming up in December and the city councils need notice so they can recognize the commission during their meetings. Botzler will get the information to send to councils and Ward will send it.

F. Unfinished Business

1. California Association of Human Rights Organizations

Their website is at <http://www.cahro.org/>. Miller has contacted them to update our info and determine the benefits of membership.

G. New Business

1. Planning for educational workshop presentation at the Dialog on Race at HSU.

A planning meeting was scheduled for October 24th at 6:30pm at Botzler's house in order to prepare for the workshop presentation.

2. Discussion of appropriate methods for the commission to participate in state level political actions.
Discussion was tabled for a future meeting.

I. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14 November 2006, 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Ward, secretary