

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

Meeting of 14 November 2006

Conference Room A

Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

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

**A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests**

Present: Lyons, Miller, Shaffer, Ward, Botzler, Lochtie, Filar, Aziz, Munsee.

Excused absence: Tharp                      Guests: Christina Allbright, Ruth Needham

**B. Approval of Minutes**

*Motion* (Miller) and *second* (Filar) that the October 10th, 2006 minutes be approved as presented. *Motion Passes.*

**C. Public Comment**

A guest, Ruth Needham, stated that she recently attended a conference in Eugene, OR that was hosted by their local human rights commission. She stated that she is involved in mental health advocacy and is interested in what the Humboldt County HRC does.

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

1. Phone line reports

Lyons received multiple calls about the teen shooting that took place recently. He also received a call about a man who was assaulted and then charged as the one at fault in the confrontation. Lyons stated that he expected that caller to attend this meeting. Munsee had multiple calls from the jail and she worked together with Miller on those.

2. Other correspondence

Shaffer shared a recent issue of a periodical he receives. Botzler shared a copy of the Lumberjack that had the HRC authored article on bullying in it. Lochtie and Botzler had both heard from B. Shaeffer who shared that he was resigning from the commission.

Phone list for coming weeks.

Munsee	1 to 15 November	Shaffer	17 to 31 January
Botzler	16 to 31 November	Filar	1 to 14 February
Aziz	1 to 15 December	Miller	15 to 28 February
Tharp	16 to 31 December	Ward	1 to 15 March
Lochtie	1 to 16 January	Munsee	16 to 31 March

**E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports**

1. Finance (J. Shaffer) There is \$640.51 in the current Commission account.

2. Law Enforcement Matters (Miller)

Christina Allbright reported that the establishment of a Citizen Police Review board is still being pursued and that packets for inmates representing themselves in legal matters are being distributed.

3. Outreach and Education Matters

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

b. Periodic Columns – No new information.

c. Cox Media Center (Lochtie) – The center is still in progress. It was decided to remove this item from future agendas as a standing report on the progress is no longer needed.

4. Web site (Ward) Nothing new to report.

5. Recognition. No recognitions were proposed at this time.

6. Intern. (Ward) No contacts from prospective interns have been received.

7. Calendar.

No items were added to the calendar. A discussion about the purpose of the calendar took place and it was clarified that the goal was to have a “tickler” so that the commission can keep advance notice of upcoming events that may warrant participation by the commission and that may have advance dates for proposals or registration.

**F. Unfinished Business**

1. Discussion of appropriate methods for the commission to participate in state level political actions.

It was discussed that the commission has many agenda items and issues regarding human rights that come up in the county and that the California Association of Human Rights Organizations would be the appropriate organization to represent the commission in state level issues. Miller shared that he has done some additional exploration of the CAHRO organization and that he is not sure if membership is worth the cost at this time. Miller

stated that he will check back with CAHRO for more information. Consideration of CAHRO membership will be added to the next agenda.

2. Recommendation from Miller for jail inmate improvements (Miller)

Miller reported that the number of calls received from the jail has gone down. He stated that he has a new procedure of visiting all the callers on Monday nights and that this has been effective for him so far. He said that legal and medical issues are the two main areas of concern and that there is a lack of general information among the inmates about what their rights are in those areas. Miller will continue his current response to calls from the jail for now and will keep the commission informed about how that response is going.

**G. New Business**

1. Commission discussion and response to teen shooting, including with both law enforcement and mental health services.

There was extensive discussion about community reaction following the recent teen shooting incident. There was discussion about recommending to the board of supervisors that a citizen police review board be established.

**Motion (Ward)** that the commission recommend to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors that the city establish and fund a police review board and that they invite local jurisdictions to participate in it. **Second (Lochtie).**

**Discussion:** There were questions about jurisdiction and funding issues and it was decided that it would be up to the board of supervisors to determine those details but that we could provide them with specific recommendations. The commission had undergone extensive discussion and research in the past about establishing a police review board and some commissioners stated that they would look through their records for some of the recommendations from those past discussions.

**Motion passed with unanimous vote.**

Botzler agreed to email the commissioners to gather ideas and specific recommendations to put in the letter to the board of supervisors.

2. Follow up discussion on recommended letter to Eureka Reporter regarding James Dobson article.

Ward stated she has not seen the syndicated column in the past month and stated that she will contact the Eureka Reporter to see if they are still intending to print the column.

3. Reimbursement of Printing Costs

Kathy Hayes at St. Joseph's Hospital is coordinating the reimbursement and Botzler provided Shaffer with the contact information so the funds can be collected.

4. Criteria for column submissions between scheduled meetings.

There was discussion about whether columns that were not approved at the meeting could be circulated via e-mail for approval between meetings. There was discussion about the intended topic being approved at the meeting and having a final document approved via e-mail with Chairperson approval. There was discussion about how the Brown Act applied and Botzler stated that he would look at the act to see. Ward stated recalling that this topic was discussed at a meeting earlier in the year and stated that she would look through the minutes to see what was decided.

5. Planning for proclamation acceptance for Human Rights Month

There was discussion about which commissioners will attend the various city council meetings and there were sufficient volunteers for someone to be present at each meeting.

6. Diversity Conference and Education Summit, Humboldt State University, March 2-4<sup>th</sup>

Lochtie recommends that the commission submit a proposal using the Sticks and Stones curriculum that has already been developed and there was consensus among the commissioners for that course of action. Botzler agreed to submit the proposal.

**I. Adjourn**

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12 December 2006, 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Ward, secretary