

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

Meeting of 12 December 2006

Conference Room A

Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

Chair Botzler called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

**A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests**

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

Excused absence: none                      Guests: 1

**B. Approval of Minutes**

*Motion* (Munsee) and *second* (Lyons) that the November 14th, 2006 minutes be approved as amended. *Motion Passes.*

**C. Public Comment**

A guest stated that they wanted to commend the Arcata Police Department for their non-lethal response to a recent incident in Arcata when a juvenile was slashing tires.

The scheduled guest speaker, Rose Rodriguez, was unable to attend. Lochtie reports that she will follow up with Rose to determine a future meeting for her to attend.

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

1. Phone line reports

Botzler received a packet of information from someone who had been experiencing domestic violence in a same sex relationship. Botzler contacted the individual by phone and offered some resource information. Botzler also received two calls from the jail and an information request. Aziz received some calls from the jail that he referred to Miller. Miller reported that he has been working with a jail call that was referred to him where an inmate believes they have been sexually harassed by a guard. Miller is continuing to follow up on the concerns.

2. Other correspondence

Botzler reports that the proposal for Commission participation in the Education Summer was accepted and that he will keep us informed as more details are released. Aziz reports that he is planning to relocate to the Seattle area in approximately a month and that he will continue to participate with the Commission until he has left the area. Ward reports that Channel 3 contacted her about conducting an interview about the Commission meeting and she was unable to respond in time to the request. Ward requested a back up person for informational interviews and Miller volunteered. Botzler reported that he has received proclamations of human rights month from local city councils and Shaffer suggested that a thank you letter be written. Botzler agreed to draft the letter.

Phone list for coming weeks.

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

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

1. Finance (J. Shaffer) There is \$965.51 in the current Commission account.

2. Law Enforcement Matters (Miller)

Miller reports that he is still working with the jail and that he is looking further into the private business that contracts with the jail for several inmate services. Munsee offered to call Ann Lindsay for more information.

3. Outreach and Education Matters

a. Public Service Announcements – Filar and Tharp report that they are waiting for the new media center to be ready. Lochtie reported that they are moving forward on the media center and suggested that the executive director be contacted to see about putting announcements on the current public access channels. Filar stated that he will make that contact.

b. Periodic Columns – Tharp has two potential articles for submission and will prepare a draft of each for final approval at the January meeting. Tharp stated that there is radio media time available for the Marriage Equality event in February and she would like some commissioners to speak to the relationship between human rights and marriage equality. Botzler and Tillinghast volunteered. Tharp asked that a consideration by the Commission to co-sponsor the Marriage Equality event be on the January agenda.

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

5. Recognition. Recognition of Arcata Police Department for their non-lethal response to the incident described by meeting guest was proposed. Miller offered to prepare a recognition to be considered at the January meeting.

6. Intern. (Ward) Nothing to report.
7. Event Calendar.

Munsee and Shaffer volunteered to put together an electronic version of an event calendar. The calendar will include Commission deadlines and deadlines for Commission participation in community events.

#### **F. Unfinished Business**

1. California Association of Human Rights Organizations membership.

Miller does not recommend that the Commission pursue membership with CAHRO and the rest of the commission provided their agreement by consensus.

2. Criteria for column submissions between scheduled meetings.

There was discussion of the Brown Act and how it applies to e-mail based discussions. There was general agreement that gathering or sharing information and “wordsmithing” draft documents are appropriate activities for e-mail and that any actions with the goal of achieving consensus are not appropriate. It was proposed that a policy guide for commission emails is developed and Lochtie offered to develop it.

3. Reimbursement of printing costs (Tharp). Shaffer reported that a check for \$325 was received from St. Joseph’s to reimburse the costs for printing the resource cards. **Motion (Lochtie)** for the Commission to pay for printing new resource cards and to seek reimbursement of costs from the County or from the local legal association. **Second (Filar). Motion Passes.**

#### **G. New Business**

1. Approval of letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending the formation of a police review board.

There was discussion of a draft letter that was prepared by Botzler. There was discussion of appropriate ways to provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors about review board models that can be implemented. Revisions to the draft letter were discussed. **Motion (Tharp)** to submit the letter prepared by Botzler with the proposed revisions of removing all but the first sentence of the first paragraph and directing the letter to the current chairperson. **Second (Lochtie). Motion Passes.**

2. Discussion of new meeting location.

Botzler reports that he received a telephone message from an employee of the County Administrative Office stating that the courthouse would no longer be available for evening meetings due to security concerns. There was extensive discussion about the appropriate way to respond and concerns were raised about having a public meeting moved to a new location on such short notice. **Motion (Lochtie)** that Botzler draft a letter stating that the Commission is outraged and concerned about the sudden request to relocate the meeting, that the Commission is a mandated body which is composed of members appointed by the Board of Supervisors and that it is the responsibility of the county to provide an appropriate meeting location with public access. **Second (Munsee). Motion Passes.**

#### **I. Adjourn**

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> 2007, 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Ward, secretary