

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Meeting of January 9th, 2007
6 p.m., Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

The meeting was called to order by Chair Botzler at 6:04 p.m.

Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Munsee, Tillinghast, Tharp, Filar, Botzler, Lochtie, Miller, Lyons

Excused absence: Shaffer, Ward

Guest: one guest was present

Minutes – Approved as presented

Public Comment – None

Correspondence, Contact Reports, and Telephone Calls

Phone call reports

Tharp reported three calls from the jail. Lochtie reported four calls from the jail and a request for resource cards from the switchboard. Miller offered to deliver these. Miller reported two visits to the jail since our last meeting. He commented on a couple of specific cases and noted that in the last three months he's dealt with about twenty-five referrals.

Other Correspondence

Botzler reported having mailed the letter recommending the formation of a citizens' police review board to Bonnie Neely on December 14. He has not yet received a response. He also reported having received information about the HSU Community involvement Fair to be held at HSU in the West Gym on February 9 from ten until two o'clock. Botzler, Lochtie, and Miller will attend and distribute materials relevant to The Commission and its work. Botzler (10-11) Lochtie(11-1) Miller(1-2)

Phone Duties

Tillinghast	14 -16 January	Ward	1-15 March
Shaffer	17- 31 January	Munsee	16-31 March
Filar	1 – 14 February	Lyons	1-14 April
Miller	15 -28 February		

Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

Finance (Shaffer) No report

Law Enforcement (Miller) Miller reported that CPR will meet on January 24 at 9:30 at 917 3rd St. He also reported on his ongoing work to gain information about medical care in correctional facilities. He is trying to determine the relationship between the county mental health organization and the California Medical Forensics Group which is contracted to provide health care to the incarcerated. He suggested that when we have more information, we may want to contact the Grand Jury. Miller asked for more time to write the letter about The Arcata Police Dept. recognition and was encouraged to modify the letter to be more balanced in its approach, commending good work often done by police officers and citing some examples. He will continue to work on the letter and bring a draft to the Commission.

Outreach and Education (Tharp/Filar)

Public Service Announcements

Filar reported that the Community Media Center is under construction and is expected to open in the fall.

Periodic Columns

Tharp presented two articles on marriage equality to be submitted to local media. After some discussion, Lochtie moved that we approve both letters in concept with fine-tuning to be done by email before submission. Filar seconded the motion. The motion passed. Lochtie said that Rose Rodriguez from Latino Net will attend a Commission meeting some time in the future to discuss things accomplished and things to be addressed.

Web Site (Ward) No report

Recognitions

It was agreed to recognize and thank Abdul Aziz for his work on The Commission and his many contributions to the community in general. Lochtie will contribute material, and Botzler will write a letter to Aziz from The Commission.

Event Calendar (Shaffer/Munsee) No report

Unfinished Business

Email Discussion Policy

Lochtie presented a draft policy which was discussed. Lochtie made a motion that the policy be adopted with the addition of an item to be worded indicating that commissioners will use judgment to some extent in determining appropriate communication. Munsee seconded the motion. The motion passed. Lochtie will rework the policy and distribute copies to commissioners

New Business

Tharp requested that The Commission co-sponsor a marriage equality event to be held at River Lodge Conference Center on February 16 from 7-9:30. Munsee made a motion to co-sponsor the event. Filar seconded. Munsee proposed an amendment to the motion that The Commission contribute \$100 in support of the event. Second by Filar. The amendment and motion passed..

Oath Requirements for Commissioners

Tillinghast said that he is unable to sign the loyalty oath required to be on The Commission as this oath, in his opinion, subverts The Universal Declaration Of Human Rights to which he is committed. He indicated interest in serving on The Commission, and commissioners indicated a desire to have him serve. After some discussion, Tillinghast agreed to consider some alternatives which may allow him to serve.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.