

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Meeting of May 8, 2007
6 p.m., Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Miller, Ward, Lochtie, Botzler, Shaffer, Munsee

Excused Absence: Tharp, Filar, Tillinghast

Guests: There were no guests present. Will Mond, Commission intern, was present.

Minutes

Motion Shaffer, second Miller to accept minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Public Comment

None

Correspondence, Contact Reports, and Telephone Calls

Lochtie reported several calls from the jail which she referred to Miller and a call from someone regarding rental information which she referred to Lyons. Lochtie also reported a call from the switchboard requesting more resource cards. She delivered the cards and suggested highlighting the phone number of The Commission on the cards when they are printed again. Munsee reported having received three jail-related calls which were referred to Miller. Miller reported that the Commission signs have been removed from the jail premises but some calls are still being received. He is sending callers stamped envelopes with The Human Rights Commission address to enable them to communicate

Botzler reported a brief contact with the man mentioned in the minutes last month regarding a complaint about The University Police Department. .

Shaffer reported having contacted The Senior Resource Center to get information about their volunteer program in an effort find volunteers interested in serving on The Human Rights Commission. Ward contacted The Volunteer Center of The Redwoods for the same reason. Both received a form asking for a description of The Commission and its workings. Munsee will complete and submit this form.

Mond (intern) reported on his research on the various ways other Human Rights Commissions function in California. He has chosen five commissions to study further to look at how staffs, paid and unpaid, function in these organizations.

Phone Duties

Munsee	May 1 – 15
Filar	May 16 – 31
Lochtie	June 1 – 15
Botzler	June 16 – 30
Shaffer	July 16 – 31

Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports.

Finance

Shaffer reported having received a check from The Bar Association in the amount of \$204 with \$100 promised to pay for the printing of resource cards. When the full amount is received, the secretary will send a letter of appreciation.

Law Enforcement

Munsee reported on the People Project protest held last week in Arcata to draw attention to the plight of the homeless who would like a camp established for their use. Commissioners agreed that this is an on-going problem and agreed to investigate further. Miller will locate The Homeless Task Force Report, and Lochtie will contact The RCAA for information on the taxonomy of the homeless. After consideration of the accumulated information, The Commission will consider referring the matter to Patty Berg for action.. Miller reported that he is preparing his annual report . A draft will be sent to Commissioners in the next week or two.

Outreach and Education

Ward reported on the Sticks and Stones workshop presented by her and Munsee at The Humboldt County Board of Education in April. About twelve participants attended. Commissioners agreed that this is a successful and useful program. Lochtie will contact Linda Hill at The County Board of Education in June to arrange scheduling of this program for the coming school year.

Web Site

A replacement for Ward is needed to maintain the web site. Munsee will be responsible for emailing minutes and agendas to the webmaster. Miller will oversee and improve the site as needed.

Recognitions

None planned

Intern

Botzler received a letter from a student at HSU interested in an internship. Lochtie suggested that he could be helpful in gathering data related to the homeless situation. Botzler will follow up with him and report back to The Commission. Mond mentioned that in his research of other commissions, he found that some have youth commissioners. Lochtie observed that this might be a way to get another point of view and fill a vacancy on The Commission. This led to a discussion of the function of the commission. Ward offered the suggestion that we consider having an annual issue as a focus while continuing to work on emerging issues. Shaffer suggested possibly expanding education efforts.

Unfinished Business

Citizen Law Enforcement Board Proposal

Botzler reported that he has had no response from the sheriff regarding a meeting. After much discussion, it was agreed that Botzler will contact Bonnie Neely to arrange a meeting with her, our subcommittee consisting of Botzler, Lochtie, and Miller, and the sheriff. Botzler will write a draft invitation to the sheriff explaining the purpose of the meeting and offering our support to law enforcement. This action will be deferred to June or July.

New Business

Consideration of Participation in Challenge Day and Northcoast Circle of Change

Munsee will contact the people involved in conducting Challenge Day to suggest our collaboration in the follow-up to their day-long presentation.

Election of New Secretary

Loctie nominated Munsee to be secretary. Miller seconded. Passed. The entire Commission expressed gratitude to Angela Ward for her outstanding work as the secretary and as an energetic and creative member of The Commission and wished her well as she moves on.

Additional Items

Loctie suggested, in light of continuing vacancies on The Commission, that we have available at meetings applications to give to visitors who might be interested in serving..She and Botzler were also contacted by The Switchboard asking for a liaison. Miller will serve as liaison.. Loctie also reported having received a call from a woman asking for help in dealing with the management of a trailer park where she said she had had several unfortunate and possibly illegal experiences. After discussing various options, commissioners agreed that the woman had been provided with all the resources available to The Commission.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Munsee