

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Meeting of July 10, 2007
6 p.m., Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

A. A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Altschuler, Botzler, Loctie, Lyons, Miller, Munsee,
Sanders, Shaffer, Tharp, Tillinghast

Excused Absence: Filar

Guests: There were seven guests present.

B. B. Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

C. C. Public Comment

Dave Berman of The Voter Confidence Committee requested that members of The Commission familiarize themselves with the work of his committee and specifically with its recommendations to The Board of Supervisors regarding measures to be implemented for the next election in the hope that The Commission might be able to offer support. Botzler suggested that members of The Commission will read the materials, consider them, and determine where The Commission and The Voter Confidence Committee might coordinate.

A guest inquired about the relationship of The Commission to the county in terms of staff and support and was told that The Commission is strictly a volunteer organization.

Another guest voiced strong concern about the treatment of female prisoners in local detention facilities as well as in such facilities throughout the nation. He is working to affect procedural changes and asked The Commission to involve itself in this issue and possibly to offer support.

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

Botzler reported having been contacted by someone organizing human rights conferences at universities. Botzler responded and asked for more information about the project but had not yet received the additional information.

Miller reported that no calls were received during his phone monitoring time.

Phone List for Coming Weeks

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Miller | July 1 – 15 |
| Shaffer | July 16 – 31 |
| Tillinghast | August 1 – 15 |
| Altschuler | August 16 – 31 |
| Sanders | September 1 – 15 |
| Lyons | September 16 – 30 |

E. E. Committee, Liaison, and Case Reports

Finance – Shaffer reported a balance of \$935.38.

Law Enforcement – Miller asked for more feedback on his facilities report which will be attached to the annual report to The Board of Supervisors. He will circulate one more copy of his report to Commissioners for their consideration and response.

Outreach and Education – No report

Website – Munsee reported that the website has been updated.

Recognitions – No report

Internship – Mond (intern) reported that he continues to research the structure and functioning of other Human Rights Commissions in California and will be preparing a report for The Commission.

Event Calendar – Shaffer suggested that in the future the Chair notify the secretary of The Commission of upcoming events in order that they be placed on the agenda and considered at the monthly meeting. Altschuler noted that there will be an LGBT Pride Event in Arcata in September. He will get more information about it and report back.

F. F. Unfinished Business –

Citizen Law Enforcement Review Board – Botzler reported no further progress in communicating with the sheriff. The Commission subcommittee has met again with Bonnie Neely and agreed to research further how other Boards have dealt with the legal issues raised by the sheriff in his comments about a citizen review board. After a lengthy discussion, Tillinghast volunteered to contact the Sheriff's Department to see what material is available regarding the operations and procedures employed by the Department and how we can access the information. Lochtie made a motion to include the information on page 6 of the draft copy of the annual report in the final report to The Board of Supervisors. This segment of the report proposes that the Supervisors support a public educational forum that would address the role and nature of advisory groups associated with various governmental agencies. Miller seconded the motion. **Motion passed with eight in favor and one opposed.** It was agreed that the next step after making the proposal to the Supervisors would be to develop a proposal to present to various agencies asking for their support and participation.

Homelessness in Community – No report

Hospital policies regarding treatment of chronic pain – Munsee reported having researched these policies and having referred the citizen concerned to the appropriate person at St. Joseph's Hospital. Munsee also said that she saw this as a situation to be dealt with by the patient involved and her physician and recommended no further action on the part of The Human Rights Commission.

Election of Officers – The slate of officers nominated was:

Chair – Botzler

Vice – Chair – Lyons

Secretary – Munsee

Lochtie moved that the slate be elected. Tillinghast seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Annual Report – Botzler reported having sent a draft copy of the annual report to Commissioners. He said that the report will not be presented to The Board of Supervisors until August and asked for further consideration and responses from Commissioners. He will also email a cover letter to the report for consideration by Commissioners.

G. G. New Business – Botzler reported having received copies of letters sent by The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors thanking retired Commissioners and reappointing others. He also reported that one applicant present at this meeting has been waiting for several months for action to be taken on his application and indicated that he, Botzler, will contact Supervisors to let them know that members of The Commission are eager to have vacant places on The Commission filled.

Munsee reported that she will be out of town during the months of September, October, and November. This will leave a temporary vacancy in the office of secretary. It was agreed to deal with this situation next month.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Munsee