

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission  
Meeting of August 14, 2007  
6 p.m. Conference Room A  
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

**A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests**

Present: Altschuler, Botzler, Byrd, Lochtie, Miller, Sanders, Shaffer

Excused Absence: Munsee, Lyons, Tillinghast

Unexcused Absence: Tharp, Filar

Guest: 1

We have received notification that two new commissioners will be appointed:

Nita Brake-Mills and Carol DePucci

Issues of possible vacancies were discussed.

**B. Minutes**

The minutes of July 10, 2007 were approved unanimously.

**C. Public Comment**

None

Commissioners took this time to discuss **Email issues**. Some commissioners have mentioned having problems opening email attachments due to the systems they were using. It was requested that text attachments should be pasted directly into the body of the email sent to commissioners to avoid this problem in the future.

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

**1. Telephone Contacts**

Shaffer reported receiving 10 calls including:

Two calls could not be returned after repeated call backs.

One call was a spam message re grant writing.

Two callers were referred to Commissioner Tharp: one re invitation to be on a KHUM program and the other relating to an interested intern applicant.

One call was from a female expressing concerns with conduct of child welfare department. Because her claim is currently in litigation no further action was deemed appropriate.

One female caller was referred to H.C. Switchboard re disability service.

One call was from a female expressing concern about Redwood Coast Regional Center. As this matter was determined to currently be in litigation no further action was deemed appropriate.

One female caller was being evicted and needed information about any appeal of process.

One female caller was in a co-op housing development dispute re parking space and animals. She was referred to Northern California Legal Services.

Miller reported receiving five calls:

Four calls were for information about the Commission.

One caller was concerned about her service dog being treated improperly by security personnel at the courthouse. She had taken the issue to the County Risk manager and no further intervention was deemed appropriate.

Tillinghast was absent due to illness and will give his report at the next meeting. Discussion was held for new commissioners regarding the telephone response system. There is an intake form to record calls. Also there is a resource list for referrals. Both are in the new commissioner packets. It was suggested that new commissioners may want to call fellow commissioners to brainstorm issues raised in some calls.

## **2. Contacts**

a) Botzler receive notification of the Next Step Challenge Day Community Workshop Program set for August 23-26, 2007.

b) Altschuler had notice of the Gay Pride Festival set for September 30. The cost for the Commission to participate is \$10 for a table & chairs.

Commissioner Altschuler volunteered to staff a table to hand out commission materials (brochure and resource card) and provide commission presence. Altschuler will contribute the \$10 fee for the table & chair.

Miller to see if he can locate the Commission poster. Botzler will provide a copy of the brochure and resource cards.

Altschuler moved to have the Commission register for the County Gay Pride Festival on September 30, in Arcata and that he be authorized to fill out the vendor application on behalf of the Commission. Miller seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Altschuler moved to allow the expenditure of up to \$100 for the creation of a Commission banner in case the original is lost. Motion seconded by Miller and passed unanimously.

c) Humboldt State University (HSU) Agency/Volunteer and Community Involvement Fair August 30, 2007, from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Lochtie will attend with brochure, resource cards and sign up sheet for those interested in intern involvement.

Miller also volunteered to do a couple of hours. Botzler will be the contact person.

- d) Voter Confidence Committee - Botzler talked to Berman regarding Berman returning for a further presentation to the Commission. Berman is welcome to come back to attempt to persuade the Commission to take some action.

**Phone List for Coming Weeks:**

Altschuler	August 16-31
Sanders	September 1-15
Lyons	September 16-20

**E. Committee, Liaison and Case Reports**

- 1) **Finance** – Shaffer reports \$935.38 is the current balance.
- 2) **Law Enforcement** – Miller transferred correctional facility study into proper format. Tharp has it according to Miller. Botzler suggests the report be under Miller’s name, not the Commission. Miller agrees since there’s not enough time for the full Commission to review the final draft of Miller’s report.

Citizen Law Enforcement Review Board — no report.

- 3) **Outreach** –no report.
- 4) **Website** – No emails received.
- 5) **Recognition** - No report
- 6) **Internships** – No report
- 7) **Event Calendar** – No report. Botzler suggested putting gay rights parade and the HSU agency/volunteer fair on the calendar.

**F. Unfinished Business**

- 1) **Citizen Review Board** – Botzler suggests we wait until after the annual report is submitted to the Board of Supervisors.  
Lochtie reported making a presentation to the League of Women Voters re helping to sponsor the review board forum. The commission’s request will be considered at the next meeting. They may not be able to branch out this year due to the number of elections this coming year. We should have an answer in September.
- 2) **Annual Report** – Changes will be made to acknowledge boards’ recent appointment of four new commissioners.  
Lochtie moved to approve the annual report and cover letter with attachments. Seconded by Altschuler. The motion passed unanimously.

The annual Report will be formally presented to the Board of Supervisor on August 21 at 9:30 a.m. – Commissioners were encouraged to attend. Botzler will send a letter to the board in advance of the meeting so they can consider our request for support of Forum so they can respond to the request on Tuesday.

- 3) **Recruitment** – Altschuler to meet with College of the Redwoods student leadership regarding a possible student representative from the campus. Botzler talked to several other community members regarding possible commission candidates from the Native American, Latino, and student communities. Lochtie will contact Latino Net re recruitment.
- 4) **Interim Secretary** – Sanders volunteered for next meeting.

## **G. New Business**

- 1) **Educational activities during Human Rights Month** –No action

Humboldt County Office of Education. Lochtie discussed with Pam involving community in teacher workshops (i.e. commission may be present on issues such as bullying, etc.). Shaffer proposed maybe using expertise of professionals locally who like to assist.

Shaffer moved that the meeting be adjourned. Miller seconded. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.

Next meeting is scheduled for **November 11, 2007 at 6 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Neal I. Sanders