

**Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
MINUTES**

Meeting of October 9, 2007
6 p.m. Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

A. Attendance:

Present: Altschuler, Botzler, Shaffer, Lyons, Miller, Tillinghast, Brake-Mills, and Sanders

Absent: Depucci, Filar, Lochtie, Munsee and Tharp

B. Minutes:

Sanders moved to approve minutes of September 11, 2007. Altschuler seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

C. Comment:

Tillinghast discussed Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the program developed by the University of Minnesota. He suggested providing their questionnaire for use by local schools to discuss the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in classrooms.

This will be put on the agenda for next month for discussion.

D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence and Contact Reports:

1. Calls

Lyons reported receiving eight calls including:

Three general questions regarding Humboldt County Human Rights Commission.

Two regarding mental health for which cards were provided

One from a television station regarding a police forum

One homeless person for which a card was provided

One call from jail, but no name and no call back

A question was asked regarding where our information cards are kept – it appears they are spread among commissioners. Commissioners are requested to see if there is a stash of cards somewhere. If not, Botzler is authorized to produce new ones.

The possibility of the county allowing the Humboldt County Human Rights Commission to use their copier was discussed. Discussion was held

concerning whether printers would print our handouts for the acknowledgement on cards.

Shaffer mentioned the current issue of the Journal of Social Issues which discusses homelessness in developed nations. Shaffer has the issue if anyone is interested in reading it.

Brake-Mills reported receiving three calls including:

One regarding the issue of stalking of a tribal member by another tribal member, with a referral to tribal attorneys

One regarding a local labor issue

One from a Spanish-speaking person from Fresno. Social Services was contacted to help provide for a Spanish interpreter. Judy Bertain of Social Services was very helpful in finding an interpreter to assist. She is the interpreter supervisor.

Brake-Mills also reported on the food bank and self-help program with courts want our information cards.

Botzler announced that he has the 2006 criminal statistics out for Humboldt State University.

E. Committee Reports

- 1) **Finance** - Shaffer reports \$852.73 is the current balance.
- 2) **Law Enforcement** - Miller currently has nothing current to report.
- 3) **Outreach/Education** - Haven't heard from Tharp. Botzler will contact her.
- 4) **Website** - Munsee not present - no report.
- 5) **Recognition** - No report.
- 6) **Internships** - No report.
- 7) **Event Calendar** - Discussion was held regarding Human Rights Month (December). Botzler will request local government boards issue recognitions.
- 8) **Educational Forum** - Botzler reports it was a good forum. Bonnie Neely, Rick Botzler, Rex Bohn, Carolyn Crnich and John Hill were presenters.

A note from Byrd Lochtie was read.

Shawn McLaughlin will help with media/advertising.

Discussion: Comment was made that it was unfortunate there was not more attendance by commissioners. Discussion concerning the wide spectrum of mechanisms for setting up review/oversight boards/committees.

Altschuler suggested going to the Board of Supervisors with a concrete proposal for a forum and a request that the county provide funds for costs and fees of presenters.

Shaffer suggested thinking outside the box is sometimes better when there are outside pressures brought to bear.

Lyons suggested spearheading a drive to get results.

Shaffer proposed a My Word letter regarding the Humboldt County Human Rights Commission.

Tillinghast proposed two meetings, one for community involvement and another featuring models for review commissions.

Sanders suggested the next forum which concerns police review boards include a director from a current program in the state as well as county counsel from the county to explain the legal implications of such a board.

Botzler requested the subcommittee make a proposal to the commission at the next meeting.

Tillinghast moved that there be two forums: The first would be a community forum on the subject of a police review board from for citizens to express their views. The second would be a community forum of involved professionals where we would utilize the League of Women Voters.

Altschuler seconded the motion and suggested that the details of each forum go to subcommittee and that the forums be tied in to Human Rights Month.

The motion is passed unanimously.

Altschuler reported on the Gay Pride Parade. He said it rained before and after, but not during the event. He said the event went well and that it was good for the Human Rights Commission to have a presence there. Cost of photocopying our handout was \$102.96.

A motion to reimburse Altschuler for this cost passed by consensus.

F. New Business

Latino Net Health Fair - No report.

G. Old Business

The Dialogue on Race Committee at Humboldt State University has accepted the Human Rights Commission's proposal to present our "Sticks and Stones do Break Bones" program from November 1-9.

H. New Business

Brake-Mill opened discussion concerning complaints regarding the Humboldt County jail and Sheriff's Office. She would like to see a Human Rights Commission presence at the jail.

The matter of the Human Rights Commission having a presence at the jail will be put on the next meeting agenda.

Discussion was held concerning Senate Bill 381 and community feelings concerning the police.

Sanders raised the issue regarding housing restrictions on individuals convicted of sex crimes who must register under Penal Code 290.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 6 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Neal I. Sanders