

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Meeting of January 8, 2008
6 p.m. Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introductions

Present: Altschuler, Botzler, Brake-Mills, Herbelin, Lochtie, Lyons, Miller, Munsee, Sanders, Shaffer, Tharp, Tillinghast
Guests: three

B. Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

C. Public Comment

A guest gave an account of what he described as racial profiling involving him and The Arcata Police Department in Arcata on November 25. The guest has filed a complaint with the police department and is planning to call tomorrow to schedule a meeting with a captain of the department. Commissioners congratulated the guest on his knowledge and pursuit of justice in this case and informed him that Commissioners can be helpful in assisting with the complaint process. To that end, Miller will attend the meeting with the police captain if he can arrange to do so. If not, Tharp will attend the meeting if she is able to do so. A second guest, friend of the first, offered support to his friend and expressed shock and amazement that this incident had occurred in Arcata.

D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and Contact Reports

1. Telephone Calls

Miller reported having contacted the woman who is concerned about her rap sheet. She told him that she is leaving town for three months. Miller will follow up on her return. Lyons reported six calls. A couple of these resolved themselves during conversation. One was from tonight's guest who was invited to meet with Lyons before the meeting of The Commission. Another was a call about a juvenile case which was resolved in conversation, and another was from Alan thanking The Commission for the work it does in the community, especially the work being done related to the citizen review board. Shaffer reported having received three calls. One caller left a number but didn't answer when called.

Shaffer left The Commission number. Another caller left an unintelligible number so couldn't be contacted, and a third person wanted legal information related to a disability. She was referred to Legal Services of Northern California.

2. E-Mail

Miller had nothing to report.

3. Correspondence

Botzler reported that Access Humboldt had requested a dvd of the second forum. This is not yet available.

E. Committee, Liaison, and Case Reports

1. Finance

Shaffer reported a balance of \$849.83. He has received notice that the account will be charged \$15/mo beginning February 1. It was suggested that Shaffer contact the bank to see if the fee can be waived. Sanders moved and Tillinghast seconded a motion to authorize Shaffer to move the account if necessary. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Website

Munsee reported that minutes and agendas up to the present have been posted on the website. Miller asked about the inclusion of the annual report. Munsee will determine that the annual report is posted.

3. Recognitions

Tillinghast reminded The Commission that next December will be the sixtieth anniversary of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He would like to develop an educational program for use in schools leading up to the anniversary. He will head up a committee to do this. Other members of the committee will be Altschuler, Herbelin, Munsee, and Tharp.

4. Internships

Mond was not present. Botzler reported having been contacted by a student at HSU who is interested in an internship. It was agreed that she could be helpful to the committee on The Declaration of Human Rights. Botzler will refer her contact information to Tillinghast.

5. Calendar

Munsee distributed copies of the HRC calendar now on the website. The calendar was discussed. It was agreed that Munsee and Shaffer will work on updating the calendar using input from this meeting and bring another to The Commission for consideration. Munsee will also follow up on the suggestion that the calendar of The Hope Coalition be a link on The Commission website.

The discussion of the calendar led to a discussion of The Martin Luther King celebration to be held on January 21, at noon at The Adorni Center. Commissioners agreed that this is an event in which we should be involved. Lyons volunteered to represent The Commission and to give a short talk about the work of The Commission if it is appropriate. Miller will attend a table and distribute information about The Commission. Herbelin and Tillinghast will print and provide copies of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights which will be distributed by Tharp's daughter and some of her classmates..

6. Humboldt County Jail

Miller, Lyons, and Brake-Mills will meet in February and report to The Commission.

F. Unfinished Business

1. Shaffer asked if anyone knew what had become of the study of the homeless in the community. The Commission had discussed this study several months ago. No one had information on it, so Shaffer and Brake-Mills will investigate and report back to The Commission.

2. Citizen Law enforcement Review Board – Third Forum

The committee presented two dates for consideration for the third forum, Tuesday, March 4, and Thursday, March 13. The forum would be held in the supervisors' chambers from 7 – 9 pm. Possible panel participants presented were Sheriff Philp, County Counsel, Eureka Chief Neilsen, representative from The Coalition for Police Review (possibly Christina Allbright) , Bob Aaronson from Davis. The League of Women Voters is willing to moderate again. Sanders suggested including Barbara Attard on the panel. Sanders moved that The Commission direct the committee to continue to plan a third forum to be held on one of the two dates presented and to invite the suggested panelists and Barbara Attard to serve as panelists. Munsee seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Herbelin suggested having a select group of "expert" listeners to listen throughout the forum and then to pose relevant questions at the end to provide a focus and summary. This will be discussed more fully at the next meeting. Tillinghast recommended that publicity include information that the forum format has been set by The League of Women Voters.

G. HCHRC Retreat

The retreat will be held on Saturday, February 9, at the home of Altschuler in Ferndale It will be a potluck lunch for commissioners only. A question to consider in preparation – Why are you serving on The Commission?