

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Meeting of February 12, 2008
6 p.m. Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introductions

Present: Altschuler, Botzler, Lochtie, Miller, Munsee, Sanders, Shaffer, Tharp,
Tillinghast
Guests: two Interns: Mond, Duncan
Excused Absences: Lyons
Unexcused Absences: Brake – Mills, Herbelin

B. Minutes

The minutes were approved as corrected.

C. Public Comment

There were no public comments. (One man raised an issue at the very end of the meeting which dealt with his treatment at a local dental office.)

D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and Contact Reports

1. Telephone Calls

Botzler reported having dealt with five calls. One referred to the citizens law enforcement review board, two left messages and couldn't be contacted, one asked about the mission of The Commission, and another asked for the number of a local attorney.

Tillinghast also reported having dealt with five calls. One was a political call, one was from The Times-Standard, one came from a person calling to give The Commission information about a local bank, and a couple were from people who seemed to call to have someone to talk to.

Shaffer reported on four calls. One was a concern about the jail. The caller was referred to Miller for help. Another call was about vegetarianism. One was a sales call, and another was from a person who wanted to meet with someone face-to-face to discuss his problem.

Phone List for Coming Weeks

Sanders	February 15 – 28
Miller	March 1 – 15
Altschuler	March 16 – 31
Munsee	April 1 - 15

2. E-Mail

There was no report regarding the receipt of e-mails, but Miller reported on having gone as an observer to a meeting of the guest from last month and Captain Tom Chapman, the investigative officer for The Arcata Police Department. The purpose of the meeting was to deal with the guest's complaint of having been the victim of racial profiling. Captain Chapman will submit his

report regarding the incident to Chief Mendoza who will make a decision about the case within thirty days

3. Correspondence

Shaffer reported having received a brochure from The Humboldt County Office of Education entitled, "Professional Development Opportunities," and drew the attention of The Commission to a one-day workshop on the holocaust.

Botzler reported having received an e-mail from Rio Dell saying that they had issued a human rights proclamation and wanted to know what to do with it.

E. Committee, Liaison, and Case Reports

1. Finance – Shaffer reported a balance of \$ 849.82.
2. Outreach and Education – Tharp reported that the annual marriage equality demonstration will be held at the Eureka County Courthouse on Valentine's Day.
3. Website - Munsee reported that links to The Hope Coalition have been posted on the website and that the website is up-to-date and includes the 2007 annual report.
4. Recognition – Munsee will write letters to the editors of local newspapers recognizing and thanking communities which recognized Human Rights Month.
5. Internships – Mond announced that next month's meeting will be his last with The Commission, and he will submit a report on his work at that time. Ronni Duncan who will serve as an intern was introduced to The Commission.
6. Event Calendar – Munsee presented a Commission Working Calendar drawn up by her and Shaffer. It was suggested that they look at the calendar of The County Department of Education and consider supplementing our calendar if appropriate.
7. Humboldt County Jail – No report

F. Unfinished Business

1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Tillinghast distributed copies of The Declaration and gave a brief history of it. He also presented the report of the subcommittee working on this project. A discussion followed regarding how best to proceed. Miller moved that The Commission encourage the committee to continue to develop this program and to draw up a timeline for the project. Munsee seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Duncan will assist this committee. Tharp will not serve on the committee but will work as a mentor to the children involved. Altschuler will serve as co-chair of the committee.
2. Citizen Law Enforcement Review Board – Third Forum
Loctie said that someone had asked her why we are dealing with this issue since The Commission has done it before. This was followed by a discussion of past action and the whereabouts of Commission records of this and other actions.

It was agreed that Commission records need to be organized and suggested that this is a possible task for an intern. Botzler has a copy of earlier work on this topic by The Commission and will send copies to members.

Botzler reported that the third forum will be held on April 10 from 7 – 9 p.m. in the Supervisors' Chambers. It will be conducted by The League of Women Voters following their standard format. He presented a printed report by the subcommittee detailing potential participants, format, and possible sources of funding. Lochtie moved that the subcommittee be given permission to apply for grants for funding the forum, and Altschuler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Study of Homelessness in Humboldt County

There was no discussion of this item as Brake-Mills was not present.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:35.

Jean Munsee, Secretary