

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Minutes
Meeting of July 17, 2008
6 p.m. Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introductions

- a. Present: Altschuler, Brake-Mills, Lochtie, Lyons, Miller, Munsee, Sanders, Shaffer, Tharp
- b. Excused : Botzler, Duncan (intern), Herbelin
- c. Guests: Three

B Minutes

- a. The minutes were approved unanimously.

C Public Comment

- a. John Shelter of The Arcata Endeavor brought The Commission up to date on the current situation regarding the plight of the homeless population in Arcata and the current status of The Endeavor. He summarized Senate Bill 2 and commented on its implications for the city of Arcata. He also described a new approach to homelessness being implemented in Trinidad and suggested his coming back to The Commission to present a twenty-minute program giving more information. He also recommended that The Commission form a sub-committee to investigate homelessness in the county and then to report back to The Commission. It was agreed to consider this issue later in the meeting.
- b. Dan Turanto, a member of The County Code Enforcement Task Force, gave an overview of the work of the task force and said that the task force is being marginalized by the supervisors. He presented each Commissioner with a cd of an April 8 meeting of The Board of Supervisors at which citizens described attacks and abuse at the hands of law enforcement officials. He called on The Human Rights Commission to be aware of the situation, to monitor it, and to take action if possible.

D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and E-mails

- a. Shaffer reported a call from a person who who felt that her attorney was not representing her well in court. Shaffer returned the call and left a message for the caller. Sanders pointed out that the person has the right to have her attorney replaced. Lochtie referred one caller to Miller. Another caller from a nursing home called and left his name. Lochtie visited him at the nursing home and referred him to an ombudsman at the Senior Resource Center. Another call was from a man who felt discriminated against by a park ranger. He was invited to attend the meeting of The Commission to present his case. Lyons reported three calls. One referred to a recent INS raid, another was from a person who left the name of Anthony, and the third was from a person complaining about a humming noise at night coming from the house next to his and keeping him awake at night.. It was agreed that this constituted a nuisance and could be dealt with by the police.

Phone List for Coming Weeks

July 16-31	Munsee
August 1 – 15	Miller
August 16-31	Brake-Mills
September 1-15	Sanders
September 16-30	Altschuler
October 1-15	Loctie

- b. Correspondence – Sanders reported having received a letter from the sheriff's office reiterating the sheriff's views on a civilian law enforcement review board.
- c. E-mail – None had been received.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance (Shaffer)

Shaffer reported a balance of \$616.64.

b. Outreach and Education (Tharp)

Tharp said that Marriage Equality USA has been doing public service educational radio announcements regarding marriage equality and asked if The Commission would like to produce one. Loctie made a motion to do that, seconded by Altschuler. The motion passed unanimously, and it was agreed that Tharp will draw up a draft script and bring it back to The Commission. Sanders will be the spokesperson for The Commission.

Resource Cards (Altschuler)

Altschuler reported having applied to The Humboldt Foundation for funding for printing the cards. He estimates the cost will be approximately \$500.

c. Website (Munsee)

Altschuler reported that the list of Commissioners on the website is very outdated. Munsee will have it corrected.

d. Recognition

none.

e. Internship

Altschuler reported that our intern, Ronni Duncan, continues to work with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Committee.

F. Unfinished Business

a. Citizen Lae Enforcement Review Board (Sanders)

Sanders reported having received a letter from Sheriff Philp reiterating his position that a review panel would not be appropriate for the reasons he recently set forth at the forum. He and Police Chief Nielsen of Eureka have been asked to serve on the advisory committee, but the sheriff has not responded. So far, the committee consists of Garr Nielsen, Bonnie Neely, Larry Glass, and a representative from mental health. Loctie will contact The Mental Health Department to confirm a representative.

The committee will meet on Monday, July 22. Sheriff Philp will be notified of the meeting. The goal will be to present a plan to The Human Rights Commission for approval by November after which it will be presented to The Board of Supervisors.

b. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Altschuler)

Altschuler reported on outreach work being done by this committee regarding the observance of the 60th anniversary of the declaration. Letters have gone out to various agencies and segments of the community with more to go. Duncan will be working with people at HSU. Several commissioners suggested additional forms of outreach.

c. Annual Report (Botzler)

Botzler had sent a draft copy of the report. Commissioners were asked to send comments to him

d. Homelessness in Humboldt County (Brake-Mills)

After some discussion of the homeless situation in Humboldt County, Tharp moved, and Munsee seconded a motion to have an educational community forum on the subject and to have Lochtie contact The League of Women Voters to determine their availability for participation. The motion passed unanimously. Brake-Mills and Miller will be in charge of the forum.

e. Mental Health Care in Humboldt County (Miller)

Miller reported no response yet from Karolyn Stein regarding her visit to The Commission to share information.

f. Humboldt County Code Enforcement (Miller)

Miller and Brake-Mills will look into this and report back to The Commission.

g. Immigration Issues (Miller)

Nothing new to report

h. Commission Meeting Arrangements (Sanders)

Munsee moved and Miller seconded a motion that The Commission meet next on the third Thursday in August, August 21. The motion passed with one abstention.

G. New Business

- a. To the dismay of all,, John Lyons announced his resignation from The Commission.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Munsee (Secretary)

