

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Meeting of February 5, 2009
5 p.m. Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introductions

- a. Present: Sanders, Altschuler, Holt, Lochtie, Miller, Brake-Mills, Shelter
- b. Absent: Herbelin , Tharp, Tillinghast
- c. Guests: Jeff Conner, Humboldt County Code Enforcement

B. Minutes

- a. Minutes of January 8, 2009, were approved as presented.

C. Public Comment

- a. Jeff Conner, Humboldt County Code Enforcement was concerned that their agency was on the agenda and was curious as to why. Jeff Conner will make himself available as the Commission needs his input. There were no other public guests present.

D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and Contact Reports

a. Telephone Calls

1. Holt received one call from a man with complaints at a half way house. Those issues were resolved.
2. Brake-Mills reported three calls. One person with a landlord/tenant complaint complained of discrimination and harassment. Current and past tenants will appear at the next scheduled meeting to discuss their complaints with the Commission. The second call was from a Medical Marijuana (215) holder who was arrested by Arcata PD for the possession of a marijuana pipe. He was incarcerated for three days, had his vehicle impounded and received no medical treatment in jail for a broken hip. He was released from the County Jail in the middle of the night without transportation and nowhere to go. He was referred to the Lawyer referral service, the Mendocino County Medical Marijuana Patients Union and was instructed to pick up a complaint form from Arcata PD. The third call came from an African American woman complaining of sexual harassment by many. She left the motel where the call was returned.

Telephone Assignments

February 1-15	Altschuler
February 16-28	Lochtie
March 1-15	Miller
March 16-31	Munsee

b. Correspondence

1. Sanders reported receiving a check of \$100.00 in memory of Jack Schaffer.
2. Career Expo and Volunteer Fair at HSU. Sanders confirmed our attendance on February 20, from 10-2 PM. Altschuler and Sanders will attend.
3. Sanders reported an e-mail from Tharp resigning from the Commission.
4. Lochtie reports a legal challenge to Proposition 8 by the League of Women Voters on the basis of putting discriminatory language in the Constitution. "The League's amicus brief argues that Proposition 8 is an invalid amendment to the California Constitution because it violates the overriding, fundamental constitutional principle of equality and human dignity. The League also argues that Proposition 8 does not apply retroactively to invalidate same-sex marriages that took place before the measure took effect, because there is no clear indication of voter intent that it apply retroactively." Miller requests that we ask the Board of Supervisors to join the amicus and Altschuler moves to recommend that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors join in.. The HRC believes that it is a constitutional violation and we will write a letter to the Board asking that County Counsel join in the amicus. A unanimous vote approved the motion. Sanders will prepare the letter to the Board of Supervisors.

E. Committee Reports

- a. Finance - Lochtie reports as holder of check book. The account needs to be balanced. Sanders reported approximately \$700.00 in the account. Miler reported a personal check written to Computer Consulting Services and requests reimbursement of \$45.00 for three more years of HRC.org. Sanders reported we need to elect a new Treasurer.
- b. Outreach and Education (Tharp)
Tharp not present and has resigned. Alschuler will take over this committee.
- c. Website (Munsee)
Brake-Mills suggested using List Serv to notify the public about HRC Events and volunteer needs. This will be placed on the next month's agenda as new business. Miller paid for and will be reimbursed for the next three years service of HRC.org.
- d. Recognition
Proclamation for Jack Schaffer will be presented on February 24, 2009 at the Board of Supervisors meeting. Jack's family approved the date.
- e. Internship
Altschuler reported not having heard from Intern Ronni Duncan. He will check in with her and report back to the commission.

F. Unfinished Business

a. Law Enforcement Review Board

Sanders reported that the Board of Supervisors is still considering the proposal. The committee will meet with the Board's representatives to help iron out any problems. Sanders will report back at the next meeting concerning our recommendation.

b. Homelessness in Humboldt County

Shelter reports approximately 1400 homeless persons in Humboldt County as a result of the Point in Time Count. There was no discussion over the next homeless community meeting to be held at the Endeavor.

c. Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Altschuler reports nothing new happening.

d. Code Enforcement

Jeff Conner was present to answer questions and advised us that that there had been a few revisions to the manual, but the manual is not being rewritten.

G. New Business

a. Nomination of Treasurer

Loctie was nominated to be Treasurer and it was voted unanimously for her to serve until the end of the year. She requested two more signers on the account. Sanders and Miller will assist as signers.

b. Four (4) Commissioner vacancies

Members discussed the need to recruit new members to The Commission, and Brake-Mills suggested the use of List Servs. There was some discussion about the need for minorities and that someone from Southern Humboldt would be helpful also.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50.

Nita Brake-Mills, Temporary Secretary in Munsee's absence.