

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

A. Attendance and Introductions

- a. Present: Brake-Mills, Herbelin, Holt,Lochtie, Miller, Munsee, Sanders
- b. Absent: Altschuler, Shelter, Tillinghast
- c. Guests: None

B. Minutes

- a. The minutes of the February meeting were approved as amended.

C. Public Comment

- a. There were no guests present, so no public comment.

D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and Contact Reports

a. Telephone Calls

- 1 .Lochtie reported a call from a woman complaining of harassment by her landlord, possibly based on the fact that the woman is multi-racial. She was referred to John Lyons who advised her and offered to help her file a complaint if she chose to do that. Another call came from a man in southern Humboldt who reported being harassed by code enforcement authorities. Lochtie suggested filing a complaint with the county or engaging an attorney, but the caller hung up in the middle of the conversation.

Telephone Assignments

March 1 – 15 Miller
March 16 – 31 Munsee
April 1 – 15 Sanders
April 16 – 30 Herbelin

b. Correspondence

- 1. Sanders reported having received a letter from a jail inmate who is an amputee and who reported being concerned about his health care in the jail. He specifically complained that there are not adequate shower facilities for him. Sanders contacted jail personnel and determined that shower facilities for handicapped people are available. This information was relayed to the inmate. He was instructed to ask for the arrangements he needs and to contact the Commission again if necessary. A letter was received from the bank acknowledging Lochtie, Sanders, and Miller as signers on the HRC account. Lochtie distributed a flyer publicizing a workshop on homelessness sponsored by St Joseph's Hospital to be held on April 9. Munsee will attend. Sanders reported having received an

email stating that we have missed the deadline for applying for an intern from HSU for this semester, but he will apply for one for next semester.

E. Committee Reports

- a. Finance (Lochtie)
 - 1. Lochtie reported a balance of \$ 831.40 in the Commission account.
- b. Outreach and Education (Altschuler)
 - 1. Altschuler was absent, so there was no report.
- c. Website (Munsee)
 - 1. Munsee reported that the website is up-to-date.
- d. Recognition
 - 1. The proclamation in honor of Jack Shaffer was made at the meeting of The Board of Supervisors on February 24. A memorial service is being held for Jack on Sunday, March 8, and Lochtie will officially represent The Commission there.

F. Unfinished Business

- a. Career Expo and Volunteer Fair at HSU (Sanders)
 - 1. Altschuler and Sanders attended and disseminated information to attendees.
- b. Amicus brief on Proposition 8 (Sanders)
 - 1. Sanders said that Humboldt County was a part of the amicus before we sent a letter urging it to join. He will send a letter to The Board of Supervisors thanking them for their action in this regard and noting that it is one with which The Commission is in full agreement.
- c. Citizen Law Enforcement Advisory Board (Sanders)
 - 1. Sanders, Miller, and Lochtie attended a meeting with personnel involved in the establishment of the Board. They reported a good meeting which increased communication among participants. The process is moving forward.
- d. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Altschuler)
 - 1. Altschuler, the head of this committee was absent, so there was no report. There was some discussion of the fact that the year is moving on, and we need to proceed with this project. Munsee and Herbelin, members of this committee will meet with Altschuler and Tillinghast next month to clarify the plan for observation of the anniversary of the declaration.
- e. Homelessness in Humboldt County (Shelter)
 - 1. Shelter was not present, so there was no report on this item. Commissioners present, however, discussed what our involvement should be. We reiterated our plan to educate

ourselves about the situation. Individual commissioners agreed to try to become better informed in order to be better able to address the issue. It was also agreed to offer to help Shelter to organize and schedule a meeting with members of the homeless community. It was agreed that The County Planning Commission is an important factor in the situation regarding living areas for the homeless population, so Sanders will invite the chair or a representative of that Commission to attend our next meeting to share information and to answer questions.

- f. Code Enforcement (Miller)
 - 1. A procedural manual is being developed.
- g. Four Commission Vacancies (Sanders)
 - 1. The need to recruit members for the Commission was discussed and a number of strategies planned.
 - a. Munsee will write a press release about The Commission, its charge, and the need for new members.
 - b. Brake-Mills will contact The Journal, The Times-Standard, and The Arcata Eye inviting staff members to write a story about The Commission - its workings, its importance, and its need.
 - c. Sanders will contact various agencies and organizations throughout the county, first by letter and then by phone, seeking interested potential members. Some of the agencies mentioned were HSU, County Social Services, United Indian Health Services, Chamber of Commerce, and The Redwood Coast Regional Center.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40

Jean Munsee, Secretary