

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Meeting of October 1, 2009
5:00 p.m. Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse
Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introductions

- a. Present: Farber-Bush, Heise, Herbelin, Holt, Lochtie, Miller, Munsee, Pereira, Sanders, Shelter
- b. Absent: Altschuler, Aronoff, Brake-Mills
- c. Guests: Christina Allbright of The ACLU was the only guest.

B. Minutes

- a. The minutes were approved as presented.

C. Public Comment

- a. John Shelter spoke not as a Commissioner but as a private citizen. He asked The Human Rights Commission to address the issue of homelessness with the County Board of Supervisors, pointing out the need for shelter throughout the county. Munsee moved and Lochtie seconded a motion that Sanders, in collaboration with other commissioners, write a letter to The Board of Supervisors concerning the need for emergency shelters in the county and suggesting that this issue be placed on the agenda for a meeting of the supervisors. The motion was approved.

D. Telephone Calls, E-mails, and Correspondence

a. Telephone Calls

1. Heise reported having dealt with three calls. A man called to report trouble with law enforcement. He'd filed complaints but no action resulted. Heise returned his call but was not able to make contact. Another caller reported having trouble with law enforcement when a responding officer was a friend of an assaulter, so no action occurred as a result of the assault. Again, Heise was unable to make contact with the complainant. A woman called from St Joseph's hospital but could not be reached on call-back as she had been released.
2. Shelter reported for Farber-Bush. One man called for assistance but said his problem had been taken care of on call-back. Another man called to discuss harassment. He will gather witness statements and appear before The Commission later.

Telephone Assignments

Miller (October 1-15)
Munsee (October 16-31)
Sanders (November 1-15)
Herbelin (November 16-30)
Pereira (December 1-15)
Heise (December 16-31)

b. Correspondence

1. A letter was received from Rick Botzler, former chair of The Commission, regarding the Law Enforcement Liaison Committee. Communication was also received from Aronoff indicating that he will not be able to serve on The Commission at least through this semester. It was agreed to take no action on his membership until his schedule is set for the next semester. The McLean Foundation offered \$1000 for printing resource cards. Since we anticipate needing \$500 for this printing, it was suggested that we use the additional \$500 for something else. A subcommittee of Miller and Lochtie will meet and report back with possible options for this expenditure.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance (Lochtie)

1. Lochtie reported a balance of \$831.40.

b. Outreach and Education (Altschuler)

1. Altschuler was absent, so there was no report.
2. Film Festival
 - a. Aronoff was absent, so there was no report.
3. Rental Property Issue in Eureka (Herbelin)
 - a. This issue is being worked on by the city council, so will be dropped on our agenda at least until some action is taken.
4. Media Contacts to address NIMBY issues in community
 - a. This committee, consisting of Shelter, Miller, and Sanders, had not yet met, but agreed to do so in advance of the next Commission meeting.
5. Resource Cards
 - a. Farber-Bush reported that the Spanish version of the resource cards has been printed and is available for distribution. The McLean Foundation paid for the printing.

c.. Website (Munsee)

- a. Munsee reported that the website is up-to-date.

d. Recognition (Sanders)

1. Munsee suggested that The Commission recognize the city of Eureka for implementing The New Directions Program and for having city-wide collaboration in the effort to provide for the homeless. Lochtie moved and Holt seconded a motion that The Commission implement this recognition through letters to the Eureka City Council and a letter to the editor of The Times-Standard. The motion passed. Shelter will provide information, and Periera will write the letters of recognition and thanks.

F. Unfinished Business

a. Law Enforcement Advisory Committee (Sanders)

1. Sanders distributed the report from The Chief Accounting Office which will be presented to The Board of Supervisors as a recommendation regarding the establishment of a law enforcement advisory committee. Sanders pointed out that this document did not include approval of our proposal submitted earlier and did include weak language which represented a radical change from that in our proposal. He suggested that The Commission take a strong stance before the Board of Supervisors on not approving the CAO proposal and in favor of approving the HRC proposal which includes a two-component system, recognizing that financial exigencies may delay some actions suggested. Munsee moved and Holt seconded a motion to that effect. The motion passed unanimously. Sanders will address the Board at its meeting on October 13 and state the stance of The Commission.

b. Homelessness in Humboldt County

1. It was agreed that this issue had been discussed fully during the public comment item on the agenda. Shelter did report that The New Directions Program is working well in Eureka. Lochtie asked Christina Allbright about ACLU cases against counties refusing to provide shelter for those in need. Allbright agreed to research this and report back to The Commission.

c. Latino Net Fair

1. Lochtie will make arrangements for a place for a Commission table at this Fair. Herbelin and Sanders will attend the table. Sanders, Farber-Bush, and Herbelin will also attend the Service and Learning Clubs Fair at Eureka High School.

d. List of Human Rights Events in the Community

2. Sanders distributed a calendar to all members and asked them to consider it and to revise or add to it for discussion at the next meeting.

G. Human Rights Month

- a. Farber-Bush will coordinate a program to raise awareness of December as Human Rights Month. Pereira will work with her to produce ideas to distribute to all Commissioners for their consideration and input.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55

Jean Munsee, Secretary
Humboldt County Human Rights Commission