

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission  
Meeting of December 3, 2009  
5:00 p.m. Conference Room A  
Humboldt County Courthouse  
Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introductions

- a. Present: Herbelin, Lochtie, Miller, Munsee, Pereira, Sanders
- b. Absent: Altschuler, Brake-Mills, Farber-Bush, Heise, Holt, Shelter
- c. Guests: one

B. Minutes

- a. Minutes of the meeting of November 5 and the special meeting of November 23 were unanimously approved as submitted.

C. Public Comment

- a. A guest presented a case in which a citizen of Humboldt County whom he represents had been promised restoration work on county land. The work has not been completed. He said it is imperative that the work be done in order to avoid hazardous conditions on the adjacent property of the person he represents. He also detailed mistreatment and abuse on the part of county officials in dealing with the complainant and asked for the support of The Human Rights Commission as he pursues legal measures in an attempt to get the necessary work done before the onset of the rainy season when he anticipates extensive flooding and erosion if the matter is not settled.

D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and Case Reports

- a. Telephone Calls  
Sanders reported having received a call from the visitor at tonight's meeting regarding the matter detailed in the Public Comment of these minutes. Sanders referred the caller to the private attorney of the landowner and pointed out that this is not a human rights issue but a litigation issue. Herbelin reported having received five calls from the same caller regarding the above issue and two calls from the state of Washington. She was able to locate appropriate referrals for those people in Washington. Pereira had not received any calls yet, and Heise was not present to report.

### Telephone Assignments

Pereira Dec. 1-15

Heise Dec. 16-31

Miller Jan. 1-15

Munsee Jan. 16-31

Lochtie Feb. 1-14

Sanders Feb. 15-28

#### b. Correspondence

Sanders reported that he had received a letter of thanks from Latino Net for Commission participation at The Latino Net Fair and a letter of support regarding the Law Enforcement Liaison Committee from the Humboldt Chapter of The Buddhist Peace Fellowship.

Sanders also reported having written a letter regarding Garr Neilsen's contributions to the community, a letter to The Times/Standard about Eureka's positive approach to dealing with homelessness, and a letter to The Board of Supervisors indicating the concern of The Commission regarding homelessness in the county.

#### E. Committee, Liaison, and Case Reports

##### a. Finance

Lochtie was not present, so there was no report. Miller moved and Munsee seconded a motion to authorize up to \$100 to be given to Farber-Bush to pay for flyers for the Declaration of Human Rights/ Aids Awareness event. The motion passed unanimously.

##### b. Outreach and Education

Herbelin reported having been in contact with Fernando Paz of Para who said that that organization's hotline to help displaced workers will be operational in January.

##### c. Website

Munsee reported that minutes had been posted and the website is current.

##### d. Recognition

Sanders wrote a letter to The Times/Standard as authorized regarding the treatment of the homeless in Eureka.

#### F Unfinished Business

##### a. Law Enforcement Liaison Committee

Sanders reported that The Board of Supervisors had passed a proposal to form a Law Enforcement Liaison Committee as recommended by The

Human Rights Commission. One change noted was the addition of two additional seats on the committee to be appointed by the sheriff as suggested by Supervisor Neely.

b. Homelessness in the County

Shelter was not present, so there was no report from him. Sanders and Miller had not yet contacted The Arcata Police Department to set up a meeting to discuss policies and procedures. Miller will make the contact and set up the meeting to be attended by him and Sanders and a representative the the police department.

c. Recognition of Human Rights Month

Farber-Bush and Pereira were recognized and thanked for their collaboration with several community organizations to arrange events in Arcata and Eureka to commemorate Human Rights Month and World Aids Day. Farber-Bush was not present, but Pereira reviewed the programs and said that about fifty people attended the event in Arcata and that even more are expected to be at the event in Eureka which coincides with Arts Alive on December 5.

G. New Business

- a. Sanders announced that two members of The Commission, Aronoff and Farber-Bush, had resigned during the month. The need for new commissioners was discussed, and Sanders suggested that this be brought to the attention of members of The Board of Supervisors who appoint people to The Human Rights Commission.
- b. Pereira mentioned having been in contact with people from Access Humboldt who are interested in working with The Commission to produce educational shows for the community about the work of the Commission and human rights in general. A lot of possibilities were discussed, and Periera was authorized to explore various possibilities with the people from Access Humboldt and to bring ideas back to The Commission for further consideration at the next meeting.
- c. Herbelin suggested that The Commission arrange a social event similar to those held in past years to foster collegiality among commissioners. This, too, will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50

Jean Munsee, Secretary  
Humboldt County Human Rights Commission