

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Minutes
Meeting of July 1, 2010

A. Attendance and Introductions

- a. Present: Altschuler, Herbelin, Heise, Miller, Munsee, Sanders
- b. Absent: Adame, Brake-Mills, Lochtie, Shelter, Seidner
- c. Guests: There were two guests present.

B. Approval of Minutes

- a. The minutes were unanimously approved.

C. Public Comment

a. Items on Agenda

1. There were no comments.
2. One guest introduced herself and said that she is applying to join The Commission.
3. Another guest described having been assaulted in December. Police Chief Garr Neilsen had been standing nearby and did nothing about the assault. The guest had filed a complaint against the Chief, but Officer Bishop refused to take the complaint. A complaint was then filed against Officer Bishop which had been turned down by Neilsen as having been found not to meet the standards to warrant further investigation. The guest was advised to wait the required amount of time for resolution of the complaint against the police chief and then, if necessary, to take the matter to the city of Eureka. He was also advised to contact The NAACP as the complaint is that the issue relates to race.

D. Telephone Calls

a. Heise

1. His calls had already been reported to Miller by e-mail, but he did report on a call from a man who complained about being harassed by the police. He was referred to Legal Services of Northern California and advised to file a formal complaint.

b. Munsee

1. Munsee reported having received three calls. One was from a man in W Va who was having trouble getting legal action on a case. He was referred to Legal Services of Northern California for referral to a local agency. Another call was from a man whose residence had been without water for several weeks whose landlord had been unresponsive. He was referred to Legal Services of Northern California as well as to The Vet Center in Eureka. The third call was from someone asking about Commission meeting time and a message with the information was left on the caller's answering machine.

Telephone Assignments

July 16 – 31	Miller
August 1 – 15	Altschuler
August 16 – 30	Sanders

Correspondence

1. Commission members received an e-mail from Sanders about the Suicide Prevention Forum attended by Herbelin and Munsee.
2. An e-mail was received from Shelter requesting time on The Commission agenda to present an update on The New Directions Program

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance (Herbelin)

1. The June statement was \$778.54.

b. Outreach and Education (Sanders)

1. Herbelin and Munsee reported on having attended an excellent day-long conference sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services on transgender issues in the state and in Humboldt County.

c. Website

1. Munsee reported that the website has been updated to include applications for the Citizen Law Enforcement Liaison Committee and for The Commission. The website also displays the date of the last update of the site. Munsee will arrange to have it noted that the speakers' bureau list is being updated.
2. Heise said that he had received letters of interest in participating as speakers from Loren Cannon and Jessica Pettit. Heise will publicize the need for speakers in the faculty publication at HSU in the fall, and Altschuler will do the same at CR.

d. Recognition

1. Sanders suggested the possibility of choosing a Person of the Year to be recognized by The Commission for contributions to the furtherance of human rights in the county. This item will be discussed further at the next meeting.

F. Unfinished Business

a. Homelessness (Shelter)

1. Shelter has requested time on the agenda to present information on The New Directions Program. It was agreed to add this item to the agenda for August.
2. The Commission agreed to respond to an e-mail from Kathy Anderson regarding a forum on homelessness. The Commission has recently sponsored a forum on homelessness so agreed to support and attend this one, but not to co-sponsor. Herbelin will send the response to Anderson.

b. Law Enforcement Liaison Committee (Sanders)

1. Sanders said that applications are needed to fill this committee, and he will contact The ACLU to see if that organization is working to encourage public participation.
- c. Collaboraion with Access Humboldt (Miller)
1. Miller will serve as the liaison to Access Humboldt and plans to video the Immigration Forum in September.
 2. Plays – Seidner was absent, so there was no report.
 3. Student Video Contest – Altschuler has no report but wants this item kept for further discussion.
- d. Immigration Forum (Munsee)
1. Munsee reported that the subcommittee planning the forum had met with a representative from The League of Women Voters, Nancy Nieboer, on June 16. The forum is taking shape and will include panelists from five areas –legal aspects, employment, education, federal implications, and the actual immigrant experience in Humboldt County. The forum will be held on September 23 at The Office of Education in Eureka from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. The next meeting of the sub- committee is scheduled for July 20 at 10:00 at The Area One Agency on Aging in Eureka.
- d. Event Calendar (Heise)
1. July 24 – Tri-County Independent Living Day Celebration
 - a. Heise will contact people in charge to see about tabling at this event.
 2. September – HSU Agency Fair
 - a. Heise will attend.
 3. September 11 – Humboldt Pride Celebration at Halvorsen Park in Eureka. Altschuler moved and Munsee seconded a motion to send \$25 to Humboldt Pride to pay for a table and two chairs for this event. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. Adopt-A-Highway Program (Sanders)
1. Sanders reported that six Commissioners participated in cleaning up our assigned stretch of highway on June 12.
- f. Public Participation in General Plan (Miller)
1. Miller met with Dan Taronto who had nothing to add to his presentation to the Commission two months ago. Miller will continue to monitor the process and keep in touch with Taronto.
- g. Annual Report (Sanders)
1. The report is progressing.

Jean Munsee, Secretary
Humboldt County Human Rights Commission

