HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
~~July 16~~, 2003
August 20,

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF
Gilbert Blanks	Will Riley (exc)	Henry L. Jenkins
Teressa Delph	Kelly Ellis (exc)	
Alice Lewis	Kathleen Conley	GUESTS
Edward Peterson		Richard Lawson
Thomas Ramundo	EX-OFFICIO	
	Parrish Stahl	

1. CALL TO ORDER:
The meeting was called to order by Secretary Delph at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Reverend Ramundo gave a prayer for the family of Robert Whitman who was recently deceased.

2. GUEST:
None

3. CITIZEN COMMENT:
Richard Lawson spoke to the Commission regarding a Gospel play recently held. He also presented a new play that will be produced called, When Love Goes Bad. This will be held on Sunday, September 14, at the Michigan Theatre at 6:00 p.m. He invited all commissioners to attend.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:
The minutes were approved by the HRC as presented.

5. POLICE LIAISON:
No report

6. RESOLUTION:
Presentation of a resolution on behalf of the Human Relations Commission honoring Reverend Excell White. Mrs. Helen White received the resolution on behalf of herself and her family.

7. COMMUNITY UPDATE/CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE:
Staff reported on a workshop sponsored by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights which will be held on September 19. He encouraged members to call the office if interested in attending.

He also received correspondence from NAHRW. This will be the Sixth Annual Memorial Service. This service honors those who dedicated their lives to Human Rights work and have since deceased. He suggested the HRC consider nominating Robert Whitman's name as an

addition to the memorial. They are also asking for any resolutions organizations may want to send in. The last item is that NAHRW is looking for nominations for officers.

8. STAFF REPORT:
Staff reviewed the financial reports. He reported that $30 was spent towards flowers for Robert Whitman's funeral.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Community Needs -
Gilbert Blanks reported on the Real Men project. He felt that the HRC should take a look at this program as it may be a good program for the HRC to do in the future.

Teressa Delph reported that the Diversity Committee is sponsoring a poster contest and they are asking for judges. Teressa will ask Kathleen Conley to participate in this since she created the HRC poster. Parrish Stahl also offered to assist.

Diversity Training - Will Riley
Alice Lewis reported that she, Teressa Delph and Robert Whitman took the training. She stated that it was a very interesting seminar. There were approximately ten people in attendance, and they will have to do approximately ten hours of observation. They are now certified by the State of Michigan.

Network and Coalitions
Gilbert Blanks reported that he attended the Jackson District Library Diversity Committee meeting. Teressa Delph stated that all who attended the meeting were Library employees.

Proposed Civil Rights Ordinance
Staff stated that since Mr. Whitman had previously chaired this committee, that perhaps Chairman Riley would like to name a new person to fill the vacancy.

HRC Director -
This has been tabled due to lack of funding.

Labor and Industry -
No report.

Diversity/Minority Employment/City - Teressa Delph
No report.

Public Relations and Information - Ed Peterson
Ed Peterson reported that the major focus now is to make sure that various churches and groups have information about the study circles. Staff reported that Parrish Stahl will be putting together a newsletter for the HRC. Mr. Stahl also distributed examples of other newsletters he has produced.

Communication with City Council - Alice Lewis
Ms. Lewis stated that she tried calling Councilmember Breeding to invite him to this HRC meeting, however, he never returned her call.

Film Festival
Gilbert reported Wednesday, November 5, 6:30 p.m. at the Michigan Theatre as the place and time for the showing of the, "Mighty". Parkside Middleschool is reading the book for its first semester. He spoke to the Literature teacher at Parkside to make her aware of the movie. A flyer will be distributed prior to the showing. He will try to get a Parkside teacher to be the facilitator. Gilbert suggested that the film, "To Kill A Mockingbird", be shown and after the showing have a mock trial with local attorneys. The commission decided to bring this back for further consideration at a later date.

Nominating Committee - Thomas Ramundo
Thomas Ramundo suggested the nomination of candidates at this meeting for the current vacancy. In light of the fact that the committee recently held meetings for the last vacancy, he suggested the HRC approve Parrish Stahl to the vacancy. Parrish was a close runner up for the last vacancy, and he has been named ex-officio. Also, he has attended all meetings since, working closely with the Commission.

Thomas Ramundo made a motion to recommend to the Mayor, Parrish Stahl to fill the current vacancy. The motion was supported by Gilbert Blanks. The motion carried.

Chairman Riley joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Chairman Riley encouraged HRC members to attend the City Council meeting when this item comes before them for a vote.

Study Circles - Gilbert Blanks
Gilbert Blanks gave a Study Circles update. He reported that there are eleven confirmed people to be facilitators. Eleven people have signed up to be participants. His goal is to have 60 people signed up for participation. Ed Peterson suggested that Jackson Public Schools be contacted. Teressa also suggested Mike Brown who now serves on the JPS Board.

10. OLD BUSINESS:

11. NEW BUSINESS:
Gilbert Blanks spoke about the College Incentive Program. Will Riley suggested that perhaps this program could work in conjunction with the Oratorical Contest.

Staff discussed a complaint received regarding incidents that have happened in the Jackson Public School system. He suggested the HRC meet with this particular parent to see if more information can be obtained. Will Riley, Alice Lewis, Ed Peterson and Henry Jenkins will offer to meet with the complainants.

Chairman Riley suggested that HRC come back to the next meeting with ideas of changing the committee structure for the HRC.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry L. Jenkins
Staff