

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall
March 20, 2002
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gilbert Blanks
Kathleen Conley
Rosemarie Herbert
Alice Lewis
Ed Peterson
Thomas Ramundo
Will D. Riley
Robert Whitman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Teressa Delph (exc.)

STAFF PRESENT:

Henry Jenkins, Staff
Lt. Mary Jo Kennedy, Police

GUEST:

Various City agencies.
(See attached)

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman Blanks at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. Chairman Blanks explained the HRC meeting and the reason for inviting community agencies to attend. He stated that he would start with the HRC Mission Statement and Vision Statement and then review the current goals so that networking can begin with area agencies as a way of assisting each other in achieving goals.

Chairman Blanks announced that Teressa Delph was not present and was excused due to the passing of her husband.
2. Citizen Comment:
None.
3. Guest:
4. Police Liaison's Report:
Lt. Mary Jo Kennedy reported on community policing. She shared a listing that showed where officers are serving in the city. Further, she answered questions.
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
A motion was made by Rosemarie Herbert to approve the February 20, 2002, minutes. The motion was supported by Will Riley. The motion carried.

6. Chairman's Correspondence/Community Update -

Chairman Blanks reported that he and Will Riley recently met with the Jackson Citizen Patriot. This was a two part discussion regarding what they wanted to see come out of their recent articles about healing racism, and what suggestions they might have. They did have some good suggestions. The Healing Racism seminars and an ongoing dialogue on diversity was discussed. They suggested special presentations at the school for students regarding diversity. The rest of the discussion was regarding the proposed Civil Rights Ordinance. The editorial staff indicated that they would not support the proposed Civil Rights Ordinance. Rosemarie Herbert reviewed what HRC members have done to garner support of the ordinance.

7. Networking Session:

Chairman Blanks asked each individual to introduce themselves and state which agency or organization they represent. A list is attached of all who attended this meeting. Chairman Blanks reviewed the HRC goals for 2002-2004. He further pointed out that the Mission and Vision statements were on top of the packet distributed.

Discussion took place regarding the HRC Ordinance requiring a City Councilmember attend HRC meetings, and what can be done to initiate better communication between the HRC and City Council.

Chairman Blanks introduced representatives, Tom Oakley and Marina Martinez-Kratz, from Jackson Community College, who gave a presentation on their diversity and inclusion committee. Mr. Oakley shared the history of the committee and what it does. This committee works hand-in-hand with the Minority Affairs department at JCC, and examines minority hiring practices.

Chairman Blanks invited any other organization to share what they are doing. Sharon Pedersen, Jackson Affordable Housing, reported that they had just applied to build 50 units of affordable rental housing. She further explained the process.

Chairman Blanks invited feedback from the community agencies regarding what they think of HRC goals, what they would like to see the HRC doing, and what form the diversity training should take. Discussion followed.

Dr. Johnson offered training for facilitators through her agency. She further explained the program and time needed to commit for it. Discussion followed.

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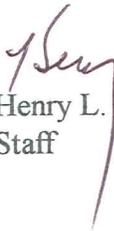
Will Riley volunteered to chair a committee that will serve as a coalition to facilitate training. Issues to be addressed were discussed. Some of the issues community representatives felt should be addressed were, banks giving financing approval to minorities, addressing a way to keep the new facilitators active, and whether by a prior commitment to training or some other method. Other issues discussed were the Oneness of Humankind. The resolution was read for those at the meeting and it was discussed.

Robert Whitman reminded the group of the upcoming Oratorical Contest to be held on Saturday, March 23, 2002, 1-5 p.m. at Jackson Crossing Mall.

Tyler Hampton, Jackson High School Gay Straight Alliance, announced that they will be participating in a National Youth Action program on April 10, 2002. They will also be doing a youth performance and showing art that evening. He urged everyone to attend.

Chairman Blanks thanked everyone for attending meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Henry L. Jenkins
Staff

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Name	Org	Phone #
Dani Meier	Jackson HS	841-3725
Tommy Oakley	J.C.C	796-8577
MARIWA MARTINEZ-KRATZ	JCC	796-8556
George Brown	JACKSON CITIZEN PATRIOT	768-4927
Michael O'Leary	NAACP	563-7146
Margarita Silva-Potts	League of ^{United Latin} American Citizens	788-4605
Dan Evans	Jackson Public Schools	784-6831
Bob Hawkins	SALVATION ARMY	529-9825
JAMES SOBOCINSKI	CITIZEN	⁽⁵¹⁷⁾ 789 8011
CONSTANCE JOHNSON	NRCHR AND CITIZEN	(517) 785-0060
Lorraine Hampton	^{president} PFLAG Jackson, parent, teacher	(517) 750-3045
Tyler Hampton	Jackson HS Gay Straight Alliance	"
Mary Jo Kennedy	Jackson Police	768-3433
E. Earl Smith	^{Bambas Family Alliance of} Universalist Unitarian Church	746-0556
JUAN M. RODRIGUEZ	W.I.B.M Radio Fiesta	782-0915
Sharon Pedersen	Jackson Aff. Housing	788-4626
Rev. LINDA & Bruce Wilkins	Teenage & East	783-5557
	Newest Assoc.	
Walter Pasca	Jackson Co. Commission	