

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 16, 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF

Henry L. Jenkins  
Lt. Mary Jo Kennedy, JPD

GUESTS

Dr. Constance Johnson

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Blanks at 6:50 p.m. Roll call was taken.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Robert Whitman to approve the September 18, 2002, minutes. The motion was supported by Alice Lewis. The motion carried.

4. COMMUNITY UPDATE/CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE:

Discussion of a film festival at Michigan Theatre took place. The movie, "What's Cooking?" was suggested. It was also suggested that the movie will be scheduled for November 18, 2002. The Jackson HRC presents this First Community Awareness Film Festival. ✓

Gilbert Blanks, Alice Lewis, and Thomas Ramundo along with Dr. Constance Johnson met prior to the meeting to discuss whether the HRC would have the movie. Kathleen Conley was not able to attend. They met at the Michigan Theatre with George Taylor, the house manager. If the HRC was flexible on a date, the Theatre would be flexible on pricing. It would be a minimal cost. Ed Peterson made a motion to go ahead with the movie. Kathleen Conley supported the motion. Abstaining from the motion were Teresa Delph, Rosemarie Herbert, Robert Whitman and Will Riley. One no vote, three yes. Therefore, the motion failed. Discussion followed. Some committee members had reservations about the movie being shown to smaller children. Some felt it may not be appropriate because of the language, sex, etc. The discussion also explored the concept of the movie and how it should be presented to the public. Staff reported that after viewing the movie, that he felt that because it addresses every day situations, this movie would open up good discussion. However, he did agree that young children should not view it since it is rated PG-13.

Will Riley made a motion supported by Robert Whitman to reconsider the vote on the movie. The vote was seven yes, and Teresa Delph and Thomas Ramundo voted no. The motion carried.

Will Riley made a motion to move forward with this movie project and explain how the HRC wants to promote it. The motion was supported by Rosemarie Herbert. The motion carried with Teressa Delph and Thomas Ramundo voting no.

A motion was made by Will Riley to budget up to \$1,000 for promoting the film, with Dr. Constance Johnson doing the marketing. The motion was supported by Ed Peterson. The motion carried.

Chairman Blanks reported that he had spoken with a representative from Study Circles. This representative will be talking to his boss about possibly conducting an introductory study seminar in Jackson.

5. STAFF REPORT:

Staff reviewed the financial reports.

Staff reported that Will Riley, Robert Whitman and he will be attending the National Association of Human Rights Workers Conference.

The Jackson County Branch NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet will be held at the Davis Banquet Hall, November 1, 2002. ✓

Also the Jackson County Branch NAACP and the A. Philip Randolph Institute will be holding a candidates forum on October 24, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. at the Community AME Church.

Will Riley made a motion that the HRC pay for members and staff that wish to attend the Freedom Fund Banquet on November 1. The motion was supported by Robert Whitman. The motion carried.

Rosemarie Herbert made a motion to accept the staff report. Thomas Ramundo supported the motion. Motion carried.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Needs - No report.

Diversity Training - No report.

Proposed Civil Rights Ordinance - Robert Whitman reported he will continue to work on the language effort.

Labor and Industry - Rosemarie suggested that the HRC train members and city staff in the area of mediation, if there were some interest. She is involved in the Grand Rapids Training of their City employees.

Staff reported on City of Jackson minority employment. Currently there are 12.2 percent

minorities employed by the City. Rosemarie Herbert asked about the current pay scales. Staff stated that he would include that information in HRC packets.

Public Relations and Information - Robert Whitman reported he attended a PFLAG meeting.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

Staff reported on the Martin Luther King Breakfast to be held in January 2003. Susan Milhoan from the Chamber of Commerce met with the HRC last month and the project is moving ahead. Another meeting will take place October 17, at 7:30 a.m. in the 14<sup>th</sup> floor conference room of City Hall.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

Alice Lewis reported there will be a racial profiling meeting scheduled in the near future, tentatively for October 28, 2002, at 6:00 p.m.

Staff reported that the City Manager will be presenting the plan for street renaming at the October 22, 2002, City Council meeting. HRC members were encouraged to attend.

Chairman Blanks reported that there are three members whose terms expire on December 31, 2002. The members are Alice Lewis, Rosemarie Herbert and Kathleen Conley. Rosemarie Herbert stated that she will not be seeking reappointment. However, she will continue to assist the HRC whenever she can.

Staff reported that an application was received by Ron Davis, who is editor at the Blazer News. Rosemarie Herbert spoke very highly of Mr. Davis.

Rosemarie Herbert asked about the mentoring program. She reported that she had tried to call Dave Kiesel's office and never received a call back. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Thomas Ramundo to approve the 2001 Annual Report. The motion was supported by Will Riley. The motion carried.

Gilbert Blanks suggested that the HRC consider another member to serve as Chairman next year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Teressa Delph  
Secretary