

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall
August 15, 2001
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gilbert Blanks
Teresa Delph
Fred Goff
Rosemarie Herbert
Alice Lewis
Ed Peterson
Thomas Ramundo
Will D. Riley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

.

STAFF PRESENT:

Henry Jenkins, Staff
Mary Jo Kennedy, JPD

GUEST:

Mr. & Mrs. Marshall, Parent of former Jackson High
Student
Shirley Williams, 5th Ward Candidate
Marilyn McNeil, 1st Ward Candidate, NAACP
Mr. Dan Meyers, Jackson High School
Allen Eichenberg, 4th Ward City Councilmember
Clark Thulin, County Commissioner
Mr. Williams, Republican Party Chairman

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman Blanks at 6:37 p.m. Roll call was taken.
2. Citizen Comment:
Chairman Blanks introduced the candidates who are running for City Council who were present at the meeting. Many who were present at the meeting gave their opinion regarding the final draft of the proposed civil rights ordinance. Chairman Blanks addressed concerns that had previously been expressed by Councilmember Eichenberg. Rev. Thomas Ramundo read a statement regarding his position and opinion about the final draft of the ordinance.
3. Guest:
None.
4. Police Liaison's Report:
Lt. Kennedy spoke to the Commission and answered any questions. A discussion followed regarding camera's in patrol cars.
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
A motion was made by Will Riley and supported by Rosemarie Herbert to approve the minutes of July 18, 2001. Motion carried.

6. Chairman's Correspondence/Community Update -
Chairman's comment - Chairman Blanks read a quote about democracy by Robert Mainard Hutchins.

Will Riley submitted Rev. Charles Harpole's name to be honored at the National Association of Human Rights Worker's Conference along with Harold White. Staff asked that some background information be provided to him regarding Rev. Harpole.

7. Staff Report:
Staff reviewed the financial report.

Staff reported that information regarding Harold White has been submitted to the National Association of Human Rights Workers for recognition and as information regarding Rev. Charles Harpole will be submitted.

A resolution regarding the Proposed Civil Rights Ordinance was brought before the HRC for adoption to be sent on to NAHRW for ratification.

Staff reported that Summerfest will be held August 31 to September 1. The HRC will have a table, and staff will provide a list of HRC volunteers. The time slots available will be from 10 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. each day. Rosemarie Herbert gave an overview of what volunteers had done at the Summerfest in the past.

The Center for Family Health Inc. will celebrate their 10th anniversary Open House on Friday, August 17, 2001.

Rosemarie Herbert made a motion to accept the staff and finance report. The motion was supported by Alice Lewis. Motion carried.

8. Committee Reports:
Community Needs Committee - Gilbert Blanks, Chairman
Gilbert Blanks reported that he is still trying to get an academic mentoring program at Jackson High School. This has been given to Buddy Hiram to supervise. The Superintendent indicated that he would like to wait until school is up and running before starting the program.

Staff suggested that HRC might want to start thinking of other major issues they may want to address now that the proposed civil rights ordinance may be wrapping up. Rosemarie Herbert suggested looking at the equality of employment at the City of Jackson.

Labor and Industry Committee: Rosemarie Herbert, Chairman

Rosemarie Herbert reported that she received a sexual harassment complaint. The respondent has been contacted.

Public Relations Committee: Ed Peterson, Chairman

Ed Peterson stated that he would contact WKHM to discuss the possibility of having a regularly scheduled time during the programming. One of the discussions would be dealing with the proposed civil rights ordinance.

Ad Hoc Committee - Civil Rights Ordinance

Chairman Blanks called for a motion to forward the final draft of the proposed ordinance to the City Council at their September 4, 2001, meeting.

A motion was made by Rosemarie Herbert to send the final draft of the proposed civil rights ordinance to the City Council at their September 4, 2001, meeting for their approval. The motion was supported by Will Riley. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried by 5 yes and 1 no.

Ad Hoc Committee - NCCJ Cluster Groups

Fred Goff gave an update on the NCCJ Cluster Groups. A discussion took place regarding the materials and price of the workshop. Fred reported that it would cost approximately \$2,000 per workshop. The Commissioners agreed to set a date for the training. Chairman Blanks reported that Jackson Public Schools is willing to buy into a diversity training program. Fred Goff recommended that the HRC contact NCCJ to ask for a refund of the money already paid to them.

Fred Goff also reported that the ad hoc committee will have some plans to look at next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Teressa Delph
Secretary