

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall
July 18, 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

GUEST:

Mary Jo Kennedy, JPD

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Blanks at 6:35 p.m. The Vice Chairman requested a few minutes of silence in honor of the memory of the late chairman, Harold White. Vice Chairman Blanks also ready a sympathy card from Jackson County Fair Housing.
2. Citizen Comment:
None.
3. Guest:
None.
4. Police Liaison's Report:
Lt. Kennedy stated that the shootings and unrest are young people getting into fights. Also, Lt. Kennedy answered any questions the commissioners had regarding the unrest and guns in general.
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
A motion was made by Fred Goff and supported by Rosemarie Herbert to approve the minutes of June 20, 2001. Motion carried.
6. Chairman's Correspondence/Community Update -
A motion was made by Fred Goff to elect Gilbert Blanks for Chairman of the Human Relations Commission, and Will Riley as Vice Chairman until the next elections. The motion was supported by Rosemarie Herbert. The motion carried by voice vote.

Chairman Blanks reported that he will try to go to the National Association of Human Rights Workers (NAHRW) Conference in October. He suggested the HRC pass a resolution endorsing the civil rights ordinance. This resolution would then be sent to NAHRW.

Rosemarie Herbert made a motion to create a resolution for submission to the National Association of Human Rights Workers Conference in October in support of Jackson, Michigan Civil Rights Ordinance. Alice Lewis supported the motion. Motion carried.

Rosemarie Herbert suggested that the NAHRW might want to recognize Harold White for his lifelong commitment to the advancement of human rights. It was decided that Gilbert Blanks would contact the NAHRW and see if this can be done.

Will Riley, Alice Lewis and Gilbert Blanks will attend the NAHRW Conference in Biloxi, MS in October. Staff will attend in the event a member is unable to go.

7. Staff Report:

Staff reviewed the financial report.

Staff reported that he has been contacted by the Department of Civil Rights regarding the Driving While Black issue. The HRC in concert with the Department of Civil Rights would sponsor a workshop sometime in October.

Staff further reported that a local business named in a recent complaint will be receiving diversity training.

A donation was received from Calvary United Methodist Church for the Healing of Racism Workshop in the approximate amount of \$127. A letter of appreciation will be sent.

Rosemarie Herbert made a motion to accept the Staff report and other communication. Will Riley supported the motion and amended the minutes to show that Henry's report was more than a financial report. The motion carried as well as the amended motion.

8. Committee Reports:

Community Needs Committee - Gilbert Blanks, Chairman

Gilbert Blanks reported that he telephoned Flamingo Brown about the Mentoring Program. Rosemarie Herbert advised that Mike Brown is the new Chairman of the Jackson Public School Board.

He also reported that he, Teresa, and Henry met with Tom Stobie, Dan Evans. Tom Stobie and Dan Evans indicated they would call for another meeting to follow up on the

Mentoring Program involving HRC and JPS or Jackson High School. Discussion followed regarding ways of approaching JPS administration regarding this issue.

Chairman Blanks reminded HRC members that one of the goals of the HRC is better communication with the City Council including attending City Council meetings. It was decided to create a calendar of HRC attendance at the City Council meetings.

Name badges were discussed. Any new members will be given a name tag.

Labor and Industry Committee: Rosemarie Herbert, Chairman

No report. Rev. Ramundo reported that he had spoken with someone in the photography field and asked him if there was a photography term called "nigro." The person assured him that there was no such term.

Public Relations Committee: Ed Peterson, Chairman

Ed Peterson reported that he talked with WKHM Radio. HRC members discussed some ideas about how to let the public know what the HRC is doing besides the ordinance. Also, Will Riley suggested that the HRC talk about the myths and facts to see what the HRC can do.

Staff reported that he will get a booth for Summerfest.

Ad Hoc Committee - Civil Rights Ordinance

Staff announced that a meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 19, 2001, 6:00 p.m., City Hall, to brainstorm ideas for the Civil Rights Ordinance. Dr. Brenda Wrigley from MSU is scheduled to be at the meeting.

Chairman Blanks reported that a meeting has been scheduled with Councilmembers Greer and Eichenberg for Wednesday, July 25, 2001, 6:30 p.m., 11th floor, City Hall. A discussion took place that the ordinance needs to be discussed with City Council about what their concerns are with the ordinance. Staff reported that Susan Smith is concerned that this sort of meeting has not taken place.

It was agreed that a letter inviting all candidates and incumbents in the upcoming City Council and Mayoral election be invited to the next regular HRC meeting in August so that they can ask any questions or raise concerns they may have about the proposed civil rights ordinance. Rosemarie Herbert suggested that Robert Whitman and Susan Smith be asked to participate in the meeting.

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NEW BUSINESS:

The NCCJ Cluster Group process was discussed. The group needs to know what the HRC wants in order to implement the process.

Ad Hoc Committee - Fred Goff and Rosemarie Herbert were appointed to decide how and when to implement the NCCJ process.

Alice Lewis and Teresa Delph were appointed to the Ad Hoc Nomination Committee to get a recommendation to fill the current vacancy on the HRC. News releases will be sent to all media, particularly the hispanic radio station, to advertise the vacancy.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Delph
Secretary