

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall
June 20, 2001
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gilbert Blanks
Alice Lewis
Rosemarie Herbert
Will D. Riley
Fred Goff
Thomas Ramundo

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Teressa Delph, exc.
Ed Peterson, exc.
Harold White, exc.

STAFF PRESENT:

Henry Jenkins, Staff

GUEST:

Jeff McGuire, WKHM
Josh Russell, WKHM
Allen Eichenberg,
4th Ward Councilmember
Ted Amsden, NCCJ
Gloria Polk, NCCJ
Lt. Mary Jo Kennedy, JPD
Charles Mead
Brenda Wrigley, MSU
Catherine Pontante

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Blanks at 6:30 p.m.
2. Citizen Comment:
Charles Mead spoke to the HRC in support of the proposed Civil Rights Ordinance.
Brenda Wrigley, Ph.D., Michigan State University, spoke to the HRC in support of the proposed Civil Rights Ordinance.

Catherine Pontante, addressed the HRC about her experience of being discriminated against at Foote Hospital for her sexual orientation on February 2000, causing her to leave employment there.

A student from Jackson High School spoke to the HRC about being a young person in Jackson.

Staff spoke to the HRC about the local radio stations being interested in informing the public further about HRC projects.

3. Guest:

Jeff McGuire and Joshua Russell of WKHM Radio, spoke to the HRC about being interested in presenting differing view points and information regarding issues that are important to the community. Discussion followed regarding this offer. It was decided that a meeting should be set up with WKHM, Ed Peterson, Chairman of the Public Relations Committee, and some citizens from the community. Staff stated that he could schedule this meeting.

Staff introduced Ted Amsden and Gloria Polk, National Conference Community Justice. Mr. Amsden and Ms. Polk spoke to the HRC regarding continuing the Cluster Group process. They also gave an audiovisual presentation. Ted Amsden further explained what NCCJ is about and what the Different People Common Ground Program is about. Discussion followed regarding the type of seminar that can be provided for the community.

Vice Chairman Blanks welcomed Councilmember Eichenberg to the meeting. Rosemarie Herbert asked if the City Council could make a list of objections or concerns that the City Council may have about the proposed civil rights ordinance. Vice Chairman Blanks suggested that perhaps the next step would be to meet with City Councilmembers individually or in groups of two or three. Discussion followed with Councilmember Eichenberg regarding the proposed ordinance.

4. Police Liaison's Report:

Lt. Kennedy introduced herself and stated that she would be the police contact for the HRC.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Will Riley and supported by Fred Goff to approve the minutes of May 16, 2001. Motion carried.

6. Chairman's Correspondence/Community Update -

Vice Chairman Blanks reported that Chairman White was in the hospital.

7. Staff Report:

Staff reviewed the financial report.

Staff reported that the annual meeting of the National Association of Human Rights Workers will be on October 28-November 1, 2001, in Biloxi, MS. They are asking for advertisements for their souvenir booklet.

Rosemarie Herbert made a motion that the HRC take a credit card size advertisement for the NAHRW Conference at a cost of \$50.00. Alice Lewis supported the motion. The motion carried.

Staff further reported that he received a letter from a registered nurse asking the HRC to provide financial assistance to assist in providing transportation to the residents of the John George Home.

Rosemarie Herbert made a motion to accept the staff report. Rev. Ramundo supported the motion. The motion carried.

8. Committee Reports:

Community Needs Committee - Gilbert Blanks, Chairman

Gilbert Blanks reported that the committee met with Jackson Public School Superintendent Dan Evans and Tom Stobie. They discussed the academic mentoring program and the scholarship. They indicated that they are still interested in the academic mentoring program. Discussion followed regarding the program.

Labor and Industry Committee: Rosemarie Herbert, Chairman

Will Riley reported on a recent complaint that was received regarding an alleged racial slur made towards a patron at a local business. A meeting has been scheduled for mediation.

Public Relations Committee: Ed Peterson, Chairman

No report.

Ad Hoc Committee - Civil Rights Ordinance

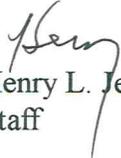
No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

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

Respectfully submitted,


Henry L. Jenkins
Staff