

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall
May 16, 2001
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gilbert Blanks
Teresa Delph
Ed Peterson
Will D. Riley
Harold White
Thomas Ramundo

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Alice Lewis, exc.
Rosemarie Herbert, exc.
Fred Goff, exc.

STAFF PRESENT:

Henry Jenkins, Staff

GUEST:

Juan Rodriguez, WIBM
Radio

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman White at 6:35 p.m.
2. Guest:
Juan Rodriguez, WIBM Radio, spoke to the HRC and invited them to participate on his radio show at WIBM. He hosts a two hour show on Sunday's, and will help get hispanic representation for the HRC. Gilbert Blanks asked Mr. Rodriguez if he could announce the public hearings for the proposed civil rights ordinance on his show. Mr. Rodriguez also stated that it would be good to also contact Sacred Heart Church.
3. Police Liaison's Report:
No Police Report.
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
A motion was made by Will Riley and supported by Gilbert Blanks to approve the minutes of April 18, 2001. Motion carried.
5. Chairman's Correspondence/Community Update -
Chairman White welcomed Thomas Ramundo to the Commission, and appointed him to work with Fred Goff on Oneness of Humankind committee.
6. Staff Report:
Staff reviewed the financial report.

Staff reported that a letter was sent to the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission Chairman offering Jackson HRC support as was requested by the HRC at the last meeting.

Staff reported that a letter was received from the Chief of Police stating that he would be unable to attend HRC meetings, but will ask Lt. Kennedy to attend the meeting.

Will Riley made a motion to accept the staff report. Gilbert Blanks supported the motion. The motion carried.

7. Committee Reports:

Community Needs Committee - Gilbert Blanks, Chairman

Gilbert Blanks reported that he had tried several times to contact Libby Brown, Jackson High School, but was unable to reach her regarding the Jr. HRC effort.

Discussion of an academic mentoring program with Jackson High School. JPS Superintendent Dan Evans suggested the mentoring program and promised to help organize this project. It is hoped that the program can be initiated in the next school year.

A discussion took place regarding ways the HRC can assist the schools to work on diversity, and scholarship programs. It was decided to schedule a meeting with Dan Evans, Tom Stobie and an HRC ad hoc committee to discuss the academic mentoring program, scholarship programs and diversity issues. The ad hoc committee would include Gilbert Blanks, Teresa Delph,

Staff asked Thomas Ramundo what issues the Southeast Ministerial Alliance is involved in that the HRC may be able to collaborate. He indicated they were approached by Dan Evans about the mentoring program. They were also concerned about issues involving African Americans such as racial profiling and driving while black (DWB).

Labor and Industry Committee: Rosemarie Herbert, Chairman
No report.

Public Relations Committee: Ed Peterson, Chairman

Staff will seek information about having a table at the Jackson County Fair and Summerfest this year.

Chairman White asked Ed Peterson to get with Staff in the next month to create the next newsletter.

Ad Hoc Committee - Civil Rights Ordinance

A letter from the Chamber of Commerce was reviewed. Discussion of the various cities in Michigan that had or had not passed an ordinance like this followed. It was decided to schedule a public hearing at the King Recreation Center on May 31, 2001, at 7 p.m., and the second public hearing at the Boos Recreation Center on June 7, 2001, at 7 p.m.

A copy of the proposed ordinance will be available for public review. Chairman White suggested that notices be sent to the college and schools. Discussion took place regarding the public meeting process.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Gilbert Blanks and supported by Ed Peterson to send flowers and a card to Rosemarie Herbert, and a card to her husband who was ill recently. The amount is not to exceed \$50. The motion carried.

A revised resolution embracing the "Oneness of Humankind" by acknowledging "There is only one race and that is the Human Race" and recommending the City Council do the same was considered. Will Riley made a motion that the resolution be adopted. The motion was supported by Ed Peterson. Motion carried.

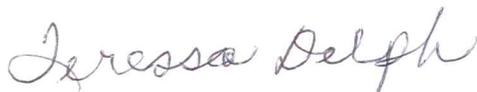
A motion was made by Will Riley to rescind the resolution regarding support of the county reapportionment and that the county be fair in the process. The motion was supported by Ed Peterson. Motion carried. The resolution was rescinded due to the fact that the County has already completed their reapportionment study.

Discussion regarding the Larry Dixon complaint took place. No action was taken by the HRC at this time.

A motion was made by Ed Peterson to reimburse Henry Jenkins, Rosemarie Herbert and any other member that would like to participate, in the amount of \$30 each for their attendance at a mediation workshop. The motion was supported by Gilbert Blanks. The motion carried.

Will Riley suggested that the HRC review their current goals and objectives at the next meeting. He also requested that a copy of the goals and objectives be included in their packet. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Delph
Secretary