

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

City Hall
August 16, 2000
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gilbert Blanks
Rosemarie Herbert
Ed Peterson
Will D. Riley
Susan Smith
Harold White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Teressa Delph, (exc.)

STAFF PRESENT:

Henry Jenkins, Staff
Officer Hiller, JPD

GUEST:

Jason Ahmentep, Dept.
Of Civil Rights

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman White at 6:30 p.m.
2. Guest: Jason Ahmentep, Department of Civil Rights.
Mr. Ahmentep spoke about his area of responsibility for the Department of Civil Rights.
3. Police Liaison's Report:
Officer Hiller discussed the department's efforts regarding Driving While Black.
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
A motion was made by Rosemarie Herbert to approve the meeting minutes of July 19, 2000. Gilbert Blanks supported the motion. Motion carried.
5. Chairman's Correspondence/Community Update -
Chairman White reported about the Police Cadet Program. Staff gave a history of the Cadet program in Jackson. A lengthy discussion followed.
6. Staff Report:
The financial report was reviewed by Henry Jenkins. He also reported on a fax received from Councilmember Breeding regarding City Councilmembers serving as an ex-officio on the HRC, and the status of the Larry Dixon HRC Complaint. He suggested that a representative of the HRC make a presentation to City Council. A discussion followed. It was decided a letter would be sent explaining the HRC's position in terms of the City Council appointment process and copy of the mediation results regarding Larry Dixon.

A motion was made by Susan Smith, and supported by Will Riley to accept the Staff Report. Motion carried.
7. Committee Reports:
Community Needs Committee - Gilbert Blanks, Chairman
Gilbert Blanks reported that he had contacted Janice Fairley regarding academic mentoring programs for ninth grade black males. Staff reported that he was familiar with

the program and that a meeting will be held with the Black ministers in Jackson to align the youth with particular churches to make sure the youth are assigned to someone.

Staff reported that he contacted Les Schick regarding goal setting sessions. The sessions will be held on August 26, from 9 a.m to 12 noon and then again on September 7 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Both sessions will be held on the 14th floor of City Hall.

Labor and Industry Committee: Rosemarie Herbert, Chairman

Rosemarie Herbert reported about complaint received alleging wrongful termination.

Public Relations Committee: Susan Smith, Chairman

Ms. Smith reported that the big project right now is Summerfest. Staff reported that he had talked with City Department Heads, and that the Department of Public Works will donate a tent for the HRC's use. Several City Departments will be involved with the tent. Ms. Smith stated that she hoped that all HRC members will be involved with staffing the tent.

Susan also reviewed several projects she is involved in through the HRC and her church.

Ad Hoc Committee - Civil Rights Ordinance

Rosemarie Herbert reported that at the last committee meeting there were representatives from Foote Hospital, Comerica Bank and Consumers Energy. The committee has identified the six or seven largest employers in the City, and have asked representatives on the committee to select one or more of those six or seven companies to call on regarding the civil rights ordinance. Staff reported that he has talked to the representative at Foote Hospital who indicated that the proposed ordinance is being taken to their board and legal representatives to be sure everything is covered. After the employers are contacted, a public hearing will be held .

Ad Hoc Committee - Nominating

Gilbert Blanks reported that an advertisement had been put into the local newspaper asking for applications to the HRC. Rosemarie Herbert suggested that the HRC meet with the Vice Mayor and two other City Councilmembers to find out why HRC recommendations for vacancies are being denied, and how the HRC members can work with the City Council to get people placed on the HRC. Discussion followed regarding membership on the HRC. Councilmember Dupuis spoke to the HRC stating that she felt it would be a good idea for members of the HRC to meet with certain Councilmembers.

Rosemarie Herbert made a motion that the Chairman, Staff and any other HRC member arrange to meet with the Vice Mayor and City Councilmembers Greer and Ludwig to ask them to help the HRC understand why the HRC recommendations for vacancies on the HRC are not being approved, including what qualifications the Councilmembers are looking for. The motion was supported by Gilbert Blanks. The motion passed.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Staff reported that the NAHRW Annual Conference will be held in Fort Lauderdale, FL, October 10-15, 2000. Chairman White asked HRC members if they would be interested in attending. Discussion followed. Several members stated that they would like to consider going and giving an answer at a later date.

Bescye Burnett's resignation letter was reviewed. Staff suggested that he would send a letter to Ms. Burnett expressing the HRC's receipt with regret of her resignation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Delph
Secretary