

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall
November 15, 2000
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gilbert Blanks
Teresa Delph
Frederic Goff
Alice Lewis
Ed Peterson
Will D. Riley
Harold White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rosemarie Herbert
Susan Smith

STAFF PRESENT:

Henry Jenkins, Staff

GUEST:

Al Eichenberg, 4th Ward
Councilmember
Janice Fairley, President
Jackson County NAACP

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman White at 6:30 p.m. Chairman White welcomed new HRC members Goff and Lewis.

2. Guest:

Janice Fairley, President of the Jackson County Branch NAACP spoke to the HRC regarding a letter of understanding of the HRC, NAACP, Police, Southeast Ministerial Alliance, and the City Manager. A meeting will be held on November 17, 2000. The agreement will be presented to the Community. Topics of interest are Civilian Recruitment, Civilian Review, Contract Compliance, Training, Community Policing, and Racial Profiling as well as recruitment/hiring. Ms. Fairley answered any questions that the HRC had. The HRC wanted added a statement that involves the fact that the goals and the plans of implementation and timelines will follow, and that NAACP is accountable to the HRC and those other entities that are involved. Janice Fairley asked the HRC for approval to go forward with this. The process of approving this agreement was discussed.

A motion was made by Ed Peterson and seconded by Will Riley that the HRC will accept the memorandum of understanding regarding a race relations agreement. Motion carried.

3. Police Liaison's Report:
No Police Report.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Gilbert Blanks and supported by Alice Lewis to approve the minutes of October 18, 2000. Motion carried.

5. Chairman's Correspondence/Community Update -

Chairman White reported about a complaint he received about a citizen who had her nails done at a local nail parlor, and she was not satisfied with the work that was done. When she complained she alleged that the people at the parlor beat her up. When she complained to the Police Department, they told her that this was a domestic incident and that they could not get involved, and nothing has happened since then. She has contacted the prosecutor's office and warrants have been put out against the people, but no one has been picked up. Discussion followed regarding this situation. It was decided that if the complainant would give staff a call, he would follow up on the situation.

6. Staff Report:

Staff reviewed the financial report.

Staff reported that the quarterly meeting of the Human Relations Commission throughout the State of Michigan which is sponsored by the Department of Civil Rights Partnership Initiative will be at the Radisson Hotel, Friday, November 17, 2000, 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in Lansing, MI. This will be an opportunity for HRC members throughout the state to get together and discuss issues.

7. Committee Reports:

Community Needs Committee - Gilbert Blanks, Chairman

Gilbert Blanks reported that the Student Human Relations Commission at Parkside Middleschool is up and running. Also, he will meet with students at Jackson High School regarding a Human Relations Commission there. One of the items for discussion will be the new Gay Straight Alliance Club.

Chairman Blanks also reported on the Academic Mentoring Program. He spoke with the principal recently and was hopeful the program will be up and running soon.

Ed Peterson and Chairman Blanks reported on their attendance at a recent Jackson Public Schools Board meeting. Chairman Blanks reported that he contacted the Jackson Community Foundation for funding to help bring in a speaker. According to the contact funding is awarded in February.

The Samella Kendricks complaint recently received was briefly discussed. It was decided that a meeting should be scheduled with Ms. Kendricks regarding her recent letter to the HRC.

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

Public Relations Committee: Susan Smith, Chairman
No report.

Ad Hoc Committee - Civil Rights Ordinance

Staff reported that he had contacted several of the committee members which have responded that they are continuing to look at the proposed ordinance. It was suggested that perhaps a meeting should be scheduled as a way to get a response from these companies. Gilbert Blanks suggested that perhaps the newspaper should be invited to attend the meetings also.

Ad Hoc Committee - Nominating

Chairman White welcomed the two new HRC members. He further discussed reappointment of Gilbert Blanks, Edward Peterson and Susan Smith. Gilbert Blanks and Edward Peterson indicated that they would be interested in being reappointed for another term.

NEW BUSINESS:

Staff reported that he researched information regarding a new website for the HRC, and that this could be started if the HRC would approve \$200 to \$300 to pay for it. A motion was made by Ed Peterson and supported by Will Riley to approve \$200 to \$300 to pay for a new website for the HRC.

Ed Peterson reported on a meeting regarding Jackson Public School Black Administrators.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Delph
Secretary