

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall
September 20, 2000
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Henry Jenkins, Staff
Officer Hiller, JPD

GUEST:

Herbert Howard
Jackson Crossing Mall

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman White at 6:30 p.m.
2. Guest: Herbert Howard, Jackson Crossing Mall.
Mr. Howard addressed the HRC and gave an update on the problems he was experiencing at the Jackson Crossing Mall. He said he had a lot of shop lifting, fighting and vandalism. He worked with security to become more customer service oriented. With this new program in effect within the last three months warnings are down 60 percent, and shop lifting is down 80 percent. Two years ago fighting was down to 10 percent. Now fighting is down to zero, and assaults are down to zero. In July warnings are down 98 percent in comparison to the same time last year. Vandalism in July is zero. Mr. Howard stated that he is real pleased that they are able to offer a safe environment. Staff knows the youth by name. Mr. Howard suggested that there needs to be a program or something for the youth to do in order to be proactive instead of reactive. Ms. Herbert stated that the City Council needs to hear Mr. Howard's story because they are the ones who distribute CDBG funds and invited him to attend a City Council meeting.

A motion was made by Susan Smith to send Herbert Howard a letter to compliment and thank him for all the effort he is doing to help young people at the mall. The motion was supported by Rosemarie Herbert. Motion carried.
3. Police Liaison's Report:
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
A motion was made by Susan Smith to approve the meeting minutes of August 16, 2000. Ed Peterson supported the motion. Motion carried.
5. Chairman's Correspondence/Community Update -
Chairman White reported that he and Henry Jenkins met with a person who recently filed a complaint against the Jackson Police Department. A discussion followed about the police doing their own investigation without any assistance from HRC's process. It was

decided that the HRC needs to investigate the possibility of a Police review board, and that copies of all complaints received be given to the City Council.

6. Staff Report:

The financial report was reviewed by Henry Jenkins. Staff spoke about the costs of setting up a web page on the Internet. It will cost approximately \$85 for setup and \$50 per page. Susan Smith asked that a definition of a web page be given.

He also reported that a goal setting session was rescheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2000 at the regular HRC meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The NAACP invited the HRC to attend a meeting on September 21, regarding some of the same issues the HRC has been addressing. It was decided that several HRC members will attend the meeting.

A motion was made by Rosemarie Herbert, and supported by Susan Smith to accept the Staff Report. Motion carried.

7. Committee Reports:

Community Needs Committee - Gilbert Blanks, Chairman

Gilbert Blanks reported he has telephone calls in to Bobby Thompkins regarding the Jr. HRC, and a telephone call in to Dan Evans about the academic mentoring program at the high school. Mr. Evans said that Jim Graham, Principal at Jackson High School knows about this and is in charge. Flamingo Brown is supposed to schedule a meeting with the Black ministers. Libby Brown at Jackson High School is supposed to be working on scheduling a meeting after school. Mr. Blanks requested that Ms. Smith contact the Peer Mediation Group out of Detroit called the Detroit Peacemakers. Ms. Herbert stated that there is a group of retired teachers that meet together. She feels that they may be of help in the mentoring program. Ms. Delph stated that Bruce Ambs is the group leader.

Mr. Peterson is working an in-service project which includes a speaker. The day has been confirmed, but he is still working on funding. Staff stated that he would bring this up at the NAACP meeting to ask for their support. It was decided to take this before the school board and request to be on their next regular meeting agenda. Rosemarie Herbert asked that a reminder be given to the HRC asking them to attend the next School Board meeting. Susan Smith requested a flyer be made also.

Labor and Industry Committee: Rosemarie Herbert, Chairman

Rosemarie Herbert reported that she mediated a complaint regarding harassment and using derogatory name calling. The complaint was mediated with good results. Staff stated that there will be another mediation on another complaint on September 20. This complaint is regarding using derogatory name calling also. Gilbert Blanks suggested that the HRC get a speaker to go in and do some training in the industry.

Public Relations Committee: Susan Smith, Chairman

Susan Smith reported that Summerfest was a success. She attended a meeting at Wilson School concerning the neighborhood around Wilson School. Susan reported that it was a very good meeting and well attended.

Susan also reported that the Triangle Foundation contacted her to ask Susan to meet with them. The meeting will be held on September 25 at 9 a.m. regarding the media's coverage of gays. Ms. Smith requested a letter be written commending everyone involved and how open minded they have been regarding the Gay Street Alliance.

Susan asked if information has been sent to the schools regarding the upcoming Oratorical Contest. She would like to have it sent out before next month so teachers would have time to incorporate the information into their lesson plans.

AWARE is having a church intervention in domestic violence October 17.

Ad Hoc Committee - Civil Rights Ordinance

Staff reported that from the last meeting the companies were going back to their respective bodies to see where they stand and possibly come up with a statement in support of the Ordinance. Foote Hospital had a meeting and decided to be neutral on the support of the Ordinance. They are working on a statement. The next step is to get some input from Comerica Bank and Consumer Energy as to what their final decision is regarding their support of the ordinance. Staff suggested that it might be a good idea to meet with the committee to decide where the issue stands.

Ad Hoc Committee - Nominating

Gilbert Blanks gave a report on the applicants that were interviewed on September 19, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. Applicants interviewed were: Frederic Goff, Alice Lewis, Caron Wooten and Gerald Lee Tremaine. A consensus of the committee could not be reached so the HRC as a whole discussed the candidates and decided to recommend Frederic Goff and Alice Lewis to the Mayor and City Council. A memorandum will be sent to the City Council advising them of this asking for their input prior to making an official recommendation to the Mayor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Staff reported that the NAHRW Annual Conference will be held in Fort Lauderdale, FL, October 10-15, 2000. It was decided that two HRC members will attend the NAHRW Conference. Harold White recommended that three attend. A motion was made by Susan Smith to send Harold White, Rosemarie Herbert and Henry Jenkins to the NAHRW Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, on September 10-15, 2000. The motion was supported by Ed Peterson. The motion carried.

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Ms. Herbert stated that Councilmember Colleen Everett was due to attend the HRC meeting and also Carl Breeding had said he would attend. She asked that if someone sees Ms. Everett to mention that she was missed.

A motion was made by Susan Smith and supported by Rosemarie Herbert to purchase a one-half page advertisement for the Jackson County Branch NAACP 2000 Freedom Fund Banquet program. The motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teressa T. Delph".

Teressa Delph
Secretary