

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

City Hall
August 18, 1999
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gilbert Blanks
Susan Smith
Teresa Delph
Pauline Stokes
Shawn White
Harold White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rosemarie Herbert
Ben Chamberlain

STAFF PRESENT:

Henry Jenkins, Staff

GUEST:

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Secretary Delph at 6:30 p.m.
2. Guest:
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
A motion was made by Gilbert Blanks to approve the meeting minutes of July 21, 1999. Pauline Stokes supported the motion. Motion carried.
4. Chairman's Correspondence/Community Update -
Staff reported on a notice about the National Association of Human Rights Workers (NAHRW) annual conference to be held in October, in North Carolina.

He also reported that the Fitness Council wrote a letter of appreciation to the Human Relations Commission for supporting their efforts in the community.

Staff passed around pictures and reported on the Peace International Run.

He also reported that there will be an Equal Opportunity Directors Conference, September 13-14, in Lansing, Michigan. The cost is \$189.

Secretary Delph turned the gavel over to Chairman White.
5. Staff Report:
Staff reviewed the Financial Report.

A motion was made by Susan Smith to approve the Financial Report, and was supported by Gilbert Blanks. The motion carried.
6. Committee Reports:
Community Needs Committee -
Shawn White reported that he and Gilbert Blanks have been actively trying to coordinate a possible Junior Human Relations Commission made up of students from Jackson Public Schools and other schools in Jackson County. They hope to have it up and running before the school year begins. He asked for any input the HRC might have. Staff suggested that

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research might be done to see if this has been done in another community. Susan Smith suggested that Shawn White contact Ed Peterson, who could maybe suggest a student who is already committed to Human Relations. Teresa Delph suggested that Linda Brian at JPS also be contacted.

A motion was made by Susan Smith and supported by Teresa Delph to accept Shawn White and Gilbert Blanks as co-chair of the Community Needs Committee. Motion carried.

Gilbert Blanks reported on a Community Awareness Fair on Saturday, August 28, 1999, at New City Resources on Prospect Street, and that perhaps the HRC could have a booth at the Fair. Susan Smith stated that she could be in the booth, and Gilbert Blanks stated that he could be in the booth from 1 - 3 p.m. It was decided that a flyer would be sent to those that attended the Institute for Healing of Racism Cluster Groups.

Labor and Industry - Rosemarie Herbert, Chairman

Chairman White reported on a recent visit to a local company which is in the process of expanding. They have a very good record of hiring women and minorities.

Public Relations & Information Committee - Susan Smith, Chairman

Susan Smith reported that on Tuesday, August 17, 1999, Teresa Delph, Harold White and herself attended a meeting with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights orientation. The purpose of the meeting was to make everyone aware of the new philosophy of the Department which is they are trying to be more responsive to customer needs. They are also creating partnerships with businesses rather than taking the old adversarial role they used to take. Another possibility talked about at the meeting was bringing a liaison to Jackson.

Susan suggested that this might be a good time to start thinking about the Martin Luther King Holiday action day as suggested by Wilmern Griffin. Also it might be a good chance to invite the new Jackson Public Schools Superintendent to visit an HRC meeting. Chairman White suggested that both be invited to the September HRC meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee - Nominating

Gilbert Blanks reported on the Nominating Committee meeting previously held. The Ad Hoc Nominating Committee recommends Edward Peterson to the HRC to fill the vacancy.

A motion was made by Gilbert Blanks to recommend to the Mayor and City Council the nomination of Edward Peterson to fill a vacancy on the Human Relations Commission. The motion was seconded by Teresa Delph. The motion carried.

It was decided among the members to discuss reappointment of members at a meeting soon. Pauline Stokes stated that she would not be interested in being reappointed.

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Gilbert Blanks stated that he would like to have a get together of some sort to welcome the new HRC member. He offered to have a bar-b-que or party at his house.

Jury Selection

Chairman White stated that he would like to readdress the jury selection process. Staff stated that he has been in contact with State Representative Mortimer, and he will be at the October HRC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

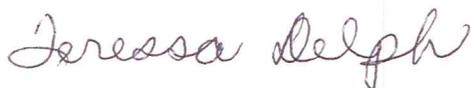
Chairman White stated that at the Civil Rights meeting the City Manager requested a list of newly released prisoners who have sexual charges as well as felonies. He expressed concern about these people coming into the Jackson community and no one knowing they are here. Chairman White suggested that HRC meet with the Police Chief to followup on how much of this has been done.

Shawn White brought up a situation of a long time city employee who is a minority who felt he was not able to progress in getting better positions with the City. Therefore, he found other employment. He felt that he was being discriminated against.

Staff reported that the NAHRW conference will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina, October 26-31, 1999. Shawn White expressed interest in attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Teressa Delph
Secretary