

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall
February 17, 1999
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gilbert Blanks
Ben Chamberlain
Teresa Delph
Larry Green
Rosemarie Herbert
Pauline Stokes
Harold White
Shawn White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Susan Smith (exc)

STAFF PRESENT:

Henry L. Jenkins

GUEST:

Jeffrey Montgomery, Triangle
Foundation
John Hoffis
Lt. Matt Heins, JPD
Sharon Pedersen, JAHC
Bescye Burnette, Library
Director

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman White at 6:30 p.m.
2. Guest:
Jeff Hoffis spoke to the HRC about his views on the proposed sexual orientation amendment to the HRC ordinance.

Jeffrey Montgomery, Triangle Foundation spoke to the HRC regarding the reasons sexual orientation be included in the city's antidiscrimination ordinance based on his organization's experiences.

Lt. Matt Heins, JPD spoke to the HRC regarding police matters. He apologized for not being at the Jackson meeting.

Sharon Pedersen, Jackson Affordable Housing spoke to the HRC regarding the upcoming Home Ownership Fair.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
A motion was made by Larry Green to approve the meeting minutes of January 20, 1999. Ben Chamberlain supported the motion. Motion carried. Rosemarie Herbert amended the minutes to reflect that the meeting was held at the Martin Luther King Center.

4. Chairman's Correspondence/Community Update -
Chairman White reported on a resolution from the Tobacco Reduction Coalition regarding advertising restrictions on tobacco. The Tobacco Reduction Coalition is requesting the HRC approve and sign the resolution.

Chairman White also reported about a meeting to be held in Detroit on February 25 regarding EEOC complaints. Chairman White expressed an interest in attending the meeting and invited other HRC members to attend with him.

5. Staff Report:
Henry Jenkins gave the Financial Report. He reported that there was very little activity last month.

Henry passed around a thank you card from Teresa Delph thanking the HRC for the flowers that were sent to her on the loss of her Mother on January 22, 1999.

Henry reported on an article in the Wall Street Journal regarding African American business people and the hardships they face with getting support from the majority community.

Jackson Public Schools will hold a celebration for their community stakeholders on February 24 at Cascades Manor House from 4:00 p.m to 6:00 p.m. Also, a reception will be held on February 24 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., honoring Dr. Carolyn Carter at the Cascades Manor House.

A motion was made by Larry Green and seconded by Rosemarie Herbert to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried.

6. Committee Reports:
Community Needs Committee - Larry Green, Chairman
Larry Green reported that information regarding the Oratorical Contest has been distributed to all area schools.

Larry reported on the progress of the Institute for Healing Racism. He reported that Mr. DuBois, Acting Superintendent of Jackson Public Schools, has given his full support to the Institute for Healing Racism by encouraging all teachers and principals to participate.

Labor and Industry - Rosemarie Herbert, Chairman

Rosemarie Herbert reported on a recent complaint and mediation meeting held. The complaint was of physical abuse from a sales person in a local department store. After speaking with the store manager, he indicated the sales person was disciplined, and apologized to the complainant. Henry indicated that he will send a brochure regarding the Institute for Healing Racism to the store manager.

Public Relations & Information Committee - Susan Smith, Chairman

No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion took place regarding the proposed sexual orientation amendment to the HRC ordinance. Rosemarie Herbert read the original motion that was made in July, and was approved at the time to pursue approval to send the recommendation to the City Council for approval. Gilbert Blanks referred to a recent editorial in the Jackson Citizen Patriot and asked if a proposed letter he had written in response would be approved by the HRC. A discussion followed regarding Commissioner Blank's request. It was decided among the members that Commissioner Blank should send his letter as a citizen. A discussion followed whether the HRC should submit a counterpoint to the recent editorial in the Jackson Citizen Patriot. It was decided to set up an ad hoc committee to study this amendment. The following members volunteered to serve on the committee.

Ben Chamberlain
Gilbert Blanks
Larry Green
Rosemarie Herbert

A discussion was held regarding the proposed smoking resolution. Rosemarie Herbert made a motion to adopt the proposed smoking resolution. Ben Chamberlain supported the motion. The motion failed with one abstention.

Henry Jenkins played a video tape of the February 2 City Council meeting where a citizen, William Shaw, expressed his views of Martin Luther King. Henry asked if the HRC would like to respond to the inflammatory comments. The HRC decided it was best not to respond.

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A motion was made by Teresa Delph and supported by Ben Chamberlain to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Delph".

Teresa Delph
Secretary