

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

City Hall

January 20, 1999

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Henry L. Jenkins

GUEST:

Edith Davis, New City Resources
Carolyn Okercheri, Peace of
World Inc.

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman White at 6:30 p.m.

2. Guest:

Edith Davis, New City Resources, was introduced to the Commission. She explained the New IIC Program (Youth Career Training) for people ages 16-21. She also explained the Summer Youth Programs available for people ages 14-21. She distributed brochures to the Commission regarding these programs. Ms. Davis entertained questions from Commissioners concerning the programs offered. A participant in the Youth Career Training program is given a six to eight week training period. Funding is available for 37 participants. The Summer Youth program is funded with federal Job Training Program Act (JTPA) monies. Ms. Davis explained that there are plenty of participants applying for the programs, however, documentation for each participant is difficult to obtain. Eligibility requirements were extensively discussed. Ms. Davis asked the HRC to communicate to the community the importance of keeping documentation and having it available when applying for various programs.

Carolyn Okercheri, Peace of the World, Inc., gave an overview relating to Peace of the World, Inc. She reported that last year she was awarded for her work towards world peace. She distributed three items: an overview of the criteria for the award, categories of the award that will be presented, and a description of a date, March 6, called Day of Peace. Ms. Okercheri reviewed each item with the Commission. She also mentioned an auction of South African made quilts that will be held to raise money to help pay for a roof on a community center built by the quilt makers. There

will also be other projects with other countries. Ms. Okercheri entertained questions from the HRC.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Larry Green to approve the meeting minutes of December 16, 1998. Susan Smith supported the motion. Motion carried.

4. Chairman's Correspondence/Community Update -

Chairman White reported on statistics of Black children killed by guns, drugs, etc., in America. He expressed the need to get to the kids.

5. Staff Report:

Henry Jenkins gave the Financial Report.

Jackson Public Schools sent a letter inviting the HRC Chairman and Vice Chair to attend a meeting to talk with the consultant regarding the search for a Superintendent. The meeting dates will be January 25, 2:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. and January 26, 4:00 p.m. Rosemarie Herbert solicited the HRC for questions that might be of concern to the HRC that should be asked. A discussion followed regarding this.

He also discussed a grant study for New City Resources, Inc., regarding how they compare with other minority newspapers in the U.S.

Rosemarie Herbert made a motion to accept the staff report. Pauline Stoke supported the motion. Motion carried.

6. Committee Reports:

Community Needs Committee - Larry Green, Chairman

Larry Green reported that the Institute for Healing Racism will be sponsored by the HRC. Ben Chamberlain has been working on a brochure to mail out to the community. There will be nine Institutes starting with March 2-3, March 23-24, and April 13-14. Staff will send this to HRC members for their information. It was also recommended that a flyer be sent out immediately.

Larry reported that he conducted some diversity training. There were 25 in one session and 27 in another. The training lasted two hours each session. He felt that the sessions went very well. The City Fire Chief wants to have Larry conduct a workshop for his department also.

Larry reported on some Hate Crime materials that he received as a result of his attendance at the National NAHRW Conference in Denver, Colorado.

The Oratorical Contest will be held on March 20, 1999, at Jackson Crossing. A meeting will need to be convened to plan this contest. Rosemarie Herbert suggested a topic could be, "If Martin Luther King were here, what would you say to him?" Chairman White also suggested possibly using topics related to essays children have recently written to the Citizen Patriot.

Labor and Industry - Rosemarie Herbert, Chairman

Rosemarie Herbert reported that a meeting had been held with the Fire Chief. Staff reported the City is in the process of hiring a new Personnel Director due to the soon retirement of Roger Wilson. He reported that the City Manager is very sensitive to the need of hiring more minorities and women at the administrative level, and that this will be taken into careful consideration.

Staff reported that he had heard from the complainant regarding handicap parking at the Jackson County Fair Grounds. Apparently the complainant is still not happy, so he is trying to schedule another meeting.

Public Relations & Information Committee - Susan Smith, Chairman

Susan Smith reported on some meetings concerning Hate Crime. A letter has been sent to major department heads that would be included in a local plan. The letter included several dates to choose from. Ms. Smith scheduled a meeting with the editor of the Jackson Citizen Patriot and reporter Eric Jorgensen. They had a very frank conversation about having someone from the newspaper covering the HRC activities.

Susan Smith also reported on the Peace Partnership to be held in February. Ben Chamberlain further reported that on February 24 a number of community agencies will be sponsoring a full day conference. The key speaker will be Dr. Pollock, Professor of Psychology, Harvard University. Dr. Pollock has done extensive work on boys and the explosiveness and violence we are seeing in the community. The conference will also focus on the girls perspective.

Susan Smith stated that there will be a family day at the Cascades on May 22. She also suggested that the HRC should have a booth at this function.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Gilbert Blanks reported that he had suggestions for HRC sponsorship activities. They include:

1. The HRC to have a booth at summer events.
2. Storyfest, sponsorship for a minority speaker is \$500.
3. A minority employment agency.
4. Goal setting meeting to be held possibly in September 1999, meeting or workshop.

Rosemarie Herbert requested that the motion passed at the July 1998 meeting regarding sexual orientation be put on the February agenda for discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Teressa Delph
Secretary