

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall
June 16, 1999
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Henry Jenkins, Staff

GUEST:

Dottie Bowersox, Jackson
County Health Dept.

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman White at 6:30 p.m.
2. Guest:
Dottie Bowersox, Jackson County Health Department, was introduced and spoke to the Commission about the Peace Partnership. Peace Partnership is a community based citizen coalition concerned with issues relating to the safety of children, youth and families. Ms. Bowersox explained about activities and answered questions for the Commission. She also discussed ways the HRC could get involved, such as committee activities, serve on boards, Annual Family Adventure Day and many more activities.
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
A motion was made by Ben Chamberlain to approve the meeting minutes of May 19, 1999. Rosemarie Herbert supported the motion. Motion carried.
4. Chairman's Correspondence/Community Update -
Chairman White commented on the article in the Jackson Citizen Patriot regarding the investigation of a Jackson Police Officer. Chairman White said the HRC should let the Chief know that they appreciate the good job he is doing.

Chairman White reported that he attended a meeting of past participants of the Institute for the Healing of Racism held on June 15. There were about 35 people in attendance, and he felt that it went very well.
5. Staff Report:
Staff reviewed the Financial Report.

A motion was made by Susan Smith to approve the Financial Report, and was supported by Rosemarie Herbert. The motion carried.

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Staff reported about a card from Grand Rapids to show what your rights are when stopped by Police. This card was devised particularly for young African Americans, who have been profiled and disproportionately stopped by police. A discussion followed regarding the use of the card.

Staff announced a meeting with the Fire Chief regarding hiring of minorities in the Fire Department. The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 17, 1999. Also a meeting with the Civil Rights Director will be held on August 17, 1999.

6. Committee Reports:

Community Needs Committee -

Ben Chamberlain reported about a meeting held on June 15 with all participants involved in the Institute for Healing of Racism. Ben will put together a summary of the meeting and submit it to the HRC. Discussion followed regarding the Institutes.

Labor and Industry - Rosemarie Herbert, Chairman

Rosemarie Herbert reported on the mediation with the City Fire Fighters and City Administration. There will be another meeting. The dialog was very productive.

A motion was made by Susan Smith and supported by Ben Chamberlain that the Southeastern Michigan Dispute Resolution be sent \$100 support for facilitating the mediation sponsored by the HRC between the City and fire fighters union. The motion carried.

Public Relations & Information Committee - Susan Smith, Chairman

Susan Smith reported that Shawn White, Teresa Delph and herself met with the City's Personnel Director to discuss hiring practices.

Susan also investigated information about Funeral Directors allegedly charging people unfairly. She discussed with many ministers in town to get some input about the issue, but was not able to find any information about unfair charges.

Ad Hoc Committee - Ordinance Revision

Rosemarie Herbert reported that the Committee would like to get the approval of the Human Relations Commission for the Ordinance revision. She urged the Commission to be present at the next City Council meeting, July 20, 1999, when this document is presented to the City Council. Staff stated that this ordinance is now more inclusive than exclusive.

A motion was made by Susan Smith and supported by Teresa Delph to approve the amended Civil Rights ordinance. The motion carried.

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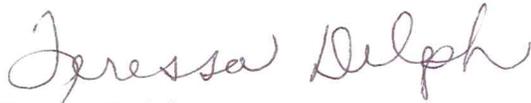
NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman White announced that Larry Green had turned in his resignation from the HRC and that the HRC needed to consider a replacement.

A special meeting has been scheduled with Jeff Montgomery, Triangle Foundation, for Wednesday, July 7, 1999, 6:00 p.m., to discuss strategies for presenting the proposed ordinance revision to the City Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Teresa Delph
Secretary