

URBANA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSON
MINUTES
August 2, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT: Willeta Donaldson, Naomi Jakobsson, Marion Knight, Ralph Langenheim, Shirley Hursey, Myrna Golden, Cope Cumpston, Lester Pritchard

STAFF PRESENT: Vacellia Clark

GUESTS: Amy Kummerow, Ruth Fliegel, Brian McPheters, Ruth Wyman

I. CALL TO ORDER

The August 2, 2000 meeting of the Urbana Human Relations Commission was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Vice Chair, Lester Pritchard.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of June 6 and June 7, 2000 were reviewed.

A motion was made to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion seconded. All voted aye. Motion approved.

A motion was made to make a change in the agenda by adding the following items:

- 1. Retreat**
- 2. Review of Procedures for Public Hearings – Brian McPheters**
- 3. Date of Initial Public Hearing in Williams vs. Guardian West**
- 4. Update on 4th of July Parade**

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of Procedures for Public Hearings

Brian McPheters addressed the Commission regarding the public hearing that was recently held. He asked the Commissioners if they had any questions concerning any of the procedures during that hearing. He indicated that it would be inappropriate to discuss the specifics of the case since a request for Administrative Review has been filed. Mr. McPheters suggested that the Commissioners take notes of the important items during a hearing and listen carefully to whether the evidence bears on the issue of liability or damages.

Mr. McPheters suggested that the Commission make sure that the complainant does not communicate directly with the Commission or staff during the hearing.

There was a discussion about whether or not the Commission could deliberate in private. Mr. McPheters suggested that if the Commission does want to conduct deliberations in private that they make sure that the Council agrees with that decision.

It was suggested that the Department of Human Rights and EEOC might have some guidelines to use.

Mr. Pritchard asked if it would have been appropriate to ask the Respondent about past record of renting.

There was a discussion that the case should be decided based on what has been presented during the hearing and not based on any prior conversations with staff.

B. Setting of Date for Initial Public Hearing

An initial public hearing date was set for Williams vs. Guardian West (#UC00-01) for September 20, 2000 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

C. Community Outreach and Education

Ruth Wyman addressed the Commission and indicated that she had given Chair Donaldson a copy of a newspaper from Kankakee, which shows a monthly public announcement addressing discrimination and who to contact if you have been discriminated against. She suggested that the Commission could look into the cost of ads for not for profits in the Octopus or the Daily Illini. Ms. Wyman indicated that this would bring more awareness to the public and notify people of their rights.

It was suggested that something might be done jointly with the Champaign Human Relations Division.

D. Parliamentary Procedures Seminar

Naomi Jakobsson indicated that if anyone was interested, the League of Women Voter's and a women's attorney group is sponsoring a seminar on Parliamentary Procedures on September 9, 2000 for a fee of \$5.00.

Naomi Jakobsson will get more information to the Commissioners.

E. Planning Retreat

The subcommittee met to discuss an agenda for the planning retreat. A date has been set for October 14, 2000 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. 4TH of July Parade Follow Up

Cope Cumpston reported that the Commission did have representation in the 4th of July parade with a float, which was jointly done with Champaign by the Anti-Hate Crime Committee. Representatives of the Commission who marched were Cope Cumpston, Naomi Jakobsson, Lester Pritchard and Ruth Fliegel.

B. Police Department Reporting

Myrna Golden asked about the voluntary reporting that the police department had been doing concerning race, gender and location. She wondered what was going on with it.

Ms. Clark reported that the Police Chief was giving a report at the next City Council meeting.

It was reported that Willeta Donaldson, Chief Adair and the Sheriff were on Channel 12 last week on the same topic.

Ms. Cumpston indicated that the Champaign HR gets an official report from their police chief each year.

V. OFFICER'S REPORT

No report was given and will be mailed to the Commissioners.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Ruth Fliegel reported that at the last Champaign Human Relations Meeting there were some names omitted of people who participated in the 4th of July parade. She indicated that she would correct that at the next meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Cope Cumpston asked that at the next meeting consideration be given to changing meeting dates so that the Commission can meet in the Council Chambers. She asked that this be placed on the next agenda.

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary