

**URBANA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 9, 2002**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cope Cumpston, Lester Pritchard, Myrna Golden, Marion Knight, Willeta Donaldson, Naomi Jakobsson, Donna Dalton, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Vacellia Clark

GUESTS: Ruth Wyman, Esther Patt, Amy Kummerow, Ruth Fliegel

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Urbana Human Relations Commission was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

II. INITIAL PUBLIC HEARING

A. Case No. 0101-02 (Newton vs. A Woman's Fund)

Ms. Clark reported that the initial public hearing has been cancelled as a result of the attorneys reaching a settlement in this case. A Settlement Agreement will be presented at the February meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2001 were reviewed. A motion was made by Naomi Jakobsson and seconded by Cope Cumpston to approve the minutes as presented.

All voted aye. The minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2001 were approved as presented.

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to be brought before the Commission.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. City's Diversity Hiring Proposal

Cope Cumpston reported that she had sent a letter to Bruce Walden with some questions regarding the Personnel Annual Report. She indicated that she has received a reply from Mr. Walden and he indicated that he is targeting next Monday to take his recommendations to the City Council.

Myrna Golden asked about the Personnel Department's own goals for diversity.

Vacellia Clark indicated that she had spoke with Mr. Walden and he indicated that the Personnel Department falls under the Executive Department goals.

Ms. Clark stated that the plan would be to have Steve Holz present to the Council the three recommended changes to the Civil Service Code. She stated that there would not be a need for any one from the HRC to testify but Commissioners are welcome to attend.

VIII. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

A. 2002 MLK Program

Marion Knight reported that the program is in the final stages.

Vacellia Clark distributed some copies of the flyers for the program. She reported that Willeta Donaldson would read a brief bio on each of the recipients and then each chair will present the awards.

Willeta Donaldson reported that there was difficulty in getting the ballots back in a timely manner. She indicated that she and Ms. Clark have reviewed the ballots received and there was a tie between two nominees with the second nominee a clear winner. Another vote will need to taken for the tiebreaker.

Marion Knight suggested having guidelines for nominees and ballots put in writing to help in future years. It was agreed that a committee would be formed consisting of Marion Knight, Naomi Jakobsson and Lester Pritchard.

Following a second tiebreaker, a vote was taken and the tie was broken. Ms. Clark will notify the commissioners of the winners.

B. 2002/2003 Budget

Lester Pritchard proposed that the Commission submit to the Mayor a request for the same budget. The consensus was that that amount would be appropriate.

C. Human Relations Commission Calendar

The calendar was reviewed. Lester Pritchard suggested that there be an additional Commissioner training in September or October. It was also suggested that the Election of Officers be added to the month of May and no meeting would be in July instead of August. It was decided that the Personnel Director should be invited in August.

There was a discussion of scheduling training and more specifically housing. Ms. Clark suggested having a separate training for tenants and landlords.

Lester Pritchard suggested getting posters to place at City Hall, the Library, etc. He asked if Donna Dalton would serve on the poster committee.

Ms. Clark reported that she has scheduled a Black History Month Program for February 15th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. The program will consist of a 45-minute presentation by Ted Adkisson. The presenter will be given an honorarium.

It was noted that the City of Champaign's Black History Month presentation would be on Saturday, February 16th.

Ms. Clark reported that she received a mailing on the Black Women's Achievement Dinner. She distributed information to the Commissioners. There was a discussion concerning the Commission purchasing an ad for the program. Cope Cumpston made a motion to purchase a ½ page ad by the Commission. Motion seconded by Lester Pritchard. A vote was taken as follows:

Cumpston – Aye
Golden – Aye
Knight – Aye

Donaldson – Aye
Pritchard – Aye
Jakobsson – Abstain

The motion carried. The Commission will purchase a ½ page.

IX. OFFICER'S REPORT

A. HRO Activity Report

Ms. Clark distributed her monthly report.

Ms. Clark indicated that the City staff training on diversity is tentatively scheduled for March.

Cleveland Jefferson addressed the Commission to say that the Personnel Department, CAO and Mayor should be taking the lead with recruitment rather than the Commission.

He added that when purchasing videos, the Commission should consider running them on the public access channel.

B. Budget Report

A copy of the budget report was distributed.

Cope Cumpston suggested setting up a subcommittee to develop ideas for purchasing materials for the Commission's use out of the books and printing budget. Naomi Jakobsson indicated that she has seen some materials that might be useful and she will email them to the Commission and Vacellia for comments and/or suggestions.

Cleveland Jefferson added that when purchasing videos, the Commission should consider running them on the public access channel.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was made by and seconded to adjourn. All voted aye. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary