

URBANA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES
June 5, 2002

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Turk Peacock

STAFF PRESENT: Vacellia Clark

GUESTS: Ruth Fliegel, Esther Patt, Darrell Hallard

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of May 8, 2002 were reviewed. Motion by Commissioner Langenheim to approve the minutes.

There was further discussion and noted that the minutes should be amended to add Mark Johnson under "guests" in attendance of the May 8 meeting. Additional discussion ensued regarding using the terms "absent" and "excused". Commissioner Knight clarified his comments from the last meeting regarding the use of "absent" and "excused". He indicated that "absent" should be used when a commissioner is not present and did not make contact to let anyone know they would not be present; "excused" should be used when a Commissioner has called and indicated that they would not be able to attend the meeting. It was agreed that the categories used would be Present, Excused and Absent.

Commissioner Pritchard moved to accept the change. Commissioner Jakobsson seconded. All voted aye.

Commissioner Knight seconded the motion to approve the minutes as corrected. All voted aye. The minutes of the meeting of May 8, 2002 were approved as corrected.

III. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Lester Pritchard asked that the following items be added to the agenda:

- a. Fire Department Review
- b. Date of Chief of Police to Attend Commission Meeting
- c. Commissioner Retreat

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

- A. Esther Patt addressed the Commission and reported that as a follow up to the bashing from the News Gazette, Councilman Whelan has put on the agenda for the next City Council meeting a discussion of the Rhodes decision.
- B. Ruth Fliegel addressed the Commission and expressed her disappointment in the outcome of the Rhodes appeal. She also expressed concern with the lack of civility in the media coverage.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Fire Department Review

Commissioner Jakobsson reported that she and Commissioner Knight met with Fire Chief Mundt regarding the fire promotional process. The union restrictions in the promotional process were discussed. Commissioner Knight indicated that the City needs to look at changing language in the promotional process when negotiating contracts with the firefighters.

Commissioners Jakobsson and Knight also reported that Chief Mundt shared with them the Fire Dept. recruitment video that is still a work in progress. Commissioner Knight shared some suggestions to the Chief.

- B. Date for Police Chief to Attend Commission Meeting

Chair Donaldson reported that the Police Chief should attend the August Commission meeting and then the Interim Personnel Director should attend the September meeting.

Ms. Clark distributed a copy of Chief Adair's report.

There was a discussion concerning Chief Adair's report and the information that the Commission has previously requested. Ms. Clark indicated that she would contact Chief Adair.

- C. Commissioner Retreat

Chair Donaldson indicated that there has been a suggestion to form a committee to plan a retreat for the Commissioners.

Ms. Clark suggested identifying what is to be learned in a retreat before locating a facilitator. She also suggested training in discrimination and other skills necessary for facilitating public hearings.

Commissioner Jakobsson asked about the status of housing training. Ms. Clark indicated that the cost of the training would be \$3,500, she has contacted the Community Development Services Department to see if they could provide some monies from their budget for some testing and training on fair housing.

Chair Donaldson asked for volunteers for the Retreat Planning Committee. Commissioners Cumpston, Pritchard and Knight all volunteered.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the Commission.

VII. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

A. Election of Officers

Commissioner Pritchard reported that he gave the Nominating Committee Report last month and asked for any additional nominations.

Commissioner Jakobsson moved to close nominations, seconded by Ralph Langeheim. A motion was made to accept the nominations. Motion seconded. All voted aye.

The officers for FY 02/03 will be Willeta Donaldson as Chair and Lester Pritchard as Vice Chair.

VIII. OFFICER'S REPORT

A. Hiring Activity

Ms. Clark reported on hiring activity for the first quarter of 2002 through April.

Commissioner Cumpston asked for recommendations that the trainer made during the diversity training. Ms. Clark indicated that she would follow up.

B. Budget

Ms. Clark distributed a copy of the budget report.

Commissioner Cumpston reported that she is working on flyers and checking into a video that would be purchased out of the current budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pritchard asking the City Council for a \$1,000 increase in the training budget. Motion seconded by Commissioner Golden. All voted aye.

Alderpersion Esther Patt will request that the City Council consider a request to increase the training budget of the Human Relations Commission by \$1,000.

C. HRO Activity Report

A copy of the report was distributed and reviewed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary