

**URBANA HUMAN RELATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
September 11, 2002**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marion Knight; Lester Pritchard; Ralph Langenheim; Ivon Ridgeway; Carl Reisman; Turk Peacock; Tatiana Camargo-Shrader; Cope Cumpston, Naomi Jakobsson;

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anne Grabow, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Vacellia Clark

GUESTS: Phyllis Clark, Dave Krchak

Before the meeting was called to order, Cope Cumpston read a statement of remembrance in honor of the victims of September 11th and the Commission observed one minute of silence.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

There being a quorum, Chair Pritchard called the meeting of the Urbana Human Relations Commission to order at 5:35 p.m.

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Naomi Jakobsson requested that the NAACP Banquet be added to the agenda. Motion approved.

III. DISPOSITION OF JOHNSON VS. GUARDIAN WEST CASE

Dave Krchak, Special Prosecutor for the City of Urbana, updated the Commission on the status of the Johnson vs. Guardian West case. Mr. Krchak stated that due to recent events, the Commission has two options: to rehear the entire case, or to allow those members currently seated, who had already heard the evidence, to decide the final outcome for the Commission as a whole. The latter choice would involve four Commission members (Cope Cumston, Lester Pritchard, Naomi Jakobsson, and Marion Knight). Mr. Johnson, the petitioner in this case, who was in the audience, was asked to come before the Commission. He stated that he did not wish a neutral third party to hear the case, but he would be agreeable to the four Commission members issuing a ruling. Mr. Krchak stated this would also be acceptable to Guardian West.

All members voted no to rehearing the entire case, except for Tatiana Camargo-Schrader, who abstained due to a conflict of interest. Vacellia agreed to contact Jack Waaler for further details on the matter.

IV. PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Urbana City Clerk Phyllis Clark made a presentation on Parliamentary procedures

V. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2003 Martin Luther King Celebration Preparations

Marion Knight led a discussion on the 2003 Martin Luther King Celebration. He recommended to set ground rules between participating parties and make sure they are followed. He also voiced opposition to a collaborative effort with the University of Illinois.

Vacellia Clark stated that she would be attending a meeting on September 12, 2002, to discuss the event with counterparts from the City of Champaign and Champaign County. Cope Cumston stated that the University is looking in other directions, and would most likely not express further interest in joining the Celebration.

Marion Knight motioned to continue the joint celebration for one more year with the City of Champaign and Champaign County. Motioned seconded by Turk Peacock. Naomi Jakobsson motioned to amend the first motion to include Marion's initial recommendations. Motion seconded by Turk Peacock. All voted aye. Motion carried.

B. Set Procedure for Election of Chairpersons at October Meeting

Chair Pritchard issued a memo stating that the Commission will elect a new chair at the October meeting. Nominations should be sent to either himself or to Vacellia Clark no later than the Monday prior to the next meeting date.

C. NAACP Banquet

Naomi Jakobsson noted that the NAACP Banquet will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2002, at the Chancellor Hotel and Convention Center in Champaign. Advertising space is also available in the program. Vacellia Clark stated that the City is a supporter of this event and has it built into the budget; therefore she only needed to know how many plan to attend and how large of ad the Commission wished to place.

Marion Knight motioned to place a full-page ad at a cost of \$100 and one table for \$250. Motion seconded by Ralph Langenheim. All voted aye. Motion carried.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Progress Report on Revisions to Public Hearing Procedures

Cope Cumpston reported that Chair Prichard, Carl Reisman, and herself met on the quorum issue, but current language of the ordinance cannot be

revised without City Council action. She will have a report for Vacellia Clark in November on the issue.

B. Report on Plans for Commissioner Training on October 5, 2002

Vacellia Clark reported that Donald Jackson, an employment law attorney from Peoria, has been procured to provide training for the Commission. Training will occur from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with lunch provided.

C. Progress Report on City Workforce Diversity

Ms. Clark stated that she will mail a report on this issue to Commission members. Cope Cumston requested that Bruce Walden make a report on the status of the City in regards to report recommendations.

Ms. Clark reported that the position of Personnel Manager should be filled by the end of October. Marion Knight suggested that the new Manager meet with the Commission when Mr. Walden issues his status report.

VIII. OFFICER'S REPORT

A. HRO Activity Report

Ms. Clark stated that currently there are two open files that are both employment related, and she hopes to have findings issued for both by the end of the month.

B. Budget Report

Ms. Clark discussed August budget items.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tatiana Camargo-Schrader announced that September 20th would be the kick-off date for 2002 Latino Heritage Month. It will be celebrated every Friday between Champaign and Urbana, alternating between the two cities each week, until October 15, 2002. Cope Cumpston offered to design a poster for the event. Vacellia Clark stated that the City of Urbana wished to be an official participant in this event, and that Mayor Satterthwaite had asked Ms. Clark to coordinate events with Ms. Camargo-Schrader.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Naomi Jakobsson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. Motion seconded by Marion Knight.

Respectfully yours,

Elizabeth Davis

