

**URBANA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES
December 11, 2002**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cope Cumpston, Marion Knight, Naomi Jakobsson, Anne Grabow

MEMBERS ABSENT: Turk Peacock, Ralph Langenheim, Tatiana Camargo-Schrader

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Lester Pritchard, Carl Reisman, Ivon Ridgeway

STAFF PRESENT: Vacellia Clark

GUESTS: Ruth Fliegel

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

There being no quorum, Chair Knight called the meeting of the Urbana Human Relations Commission to order at 5:39 p.m. for discussion purposes only.

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of November 13, 2002 was deferred until the next meeting, due to lack of a quorum.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT -

There was none.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Martin Luther King, Jr. Award Nominations

Marion Knight suggested that the date be extended for accepting Martin Luther King, Jr. Award nominations to December 20, 2002. The Commission should be prepared to vote on the nominations at the January 8, 2003 meeting.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Report on 2003 Martin Luther King Celebration Preparations

Vacellia Clark distributed a copy of a cover letter to be used for soliciting ads for the Martin Luther King Program Booklet.

Cope Cumpston indicated that she would send a letter to Ms. Clark with the names of people to send the letter to.

Ms. Clark distributed a copy of the preliminary program. She reported that Representative Danny Davis from the U.S. 107th will be the key note speaker.

VII. OFFICER'S REPORT

A. HRO Activity Report

Ms. Clark distributed a copy of her monthly report. She indicated that the “difficult case” she has been working on is probably going to go to mediation.

Ms. Clark amended the report under employment to show that 1 case was dismissed.

Ms. Clark reported that Mr. Rhodes had filed a suit asking that the City pay his attorneys fees. The Appellate Court has denied his request.

Marion Knight reported that Brian McPheters has indicated that he will not be able to serve as Hearing Officer in the future, due to his current caseload. The Commission will need to review applicants for Hearing Officer.

Marion Knight asked Ms. Clark if she had any thoughts on a Black History Month Program. Cope Cumpston suggested making it more of an educational event rather than a reception.

Naomi Jakobsson suggested setting up a panel of different people from the community who are in leadership roles and inviting students.

Anne Grabow indicated that if the commission would like students to be interested, it is better to have events at the school.

Cope Cumpston asked for Chair Knight to appoint a group to start working on Black History Month. Chair Knight asked that Cope Cumpston and Anne Grabow work with Vacellia Clark and get any additional commissioners who would be willing to help.

B. Budget Report

The Budget Report was sent to the Commissioners with their packets. There was no further discussion.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cope Cumpston asked about whether or not Bruce Walden and Mona Shannon had been invited to the January meeting. Ms. Clark reported that they have been invited.

There was a discussion on the comments that the Commissioners received from the trainer of the Diversity Training. Ms. Cumpston feels it is important for the Commission to stay on top of this issue. She asked if a letter could be sent to Bruce Walden and the Personnel Director asking for a response to how the goals that were presented last year are progressing.

Marion Knight indicated that no action could be taken without a quorum; however, he did not feel the other commissioners would have a problem with the Commission requesting additional information.

The Commission discussed items they would like to receive prior to the January 8th meeting; 1) top 10 Goals that the City came up with – need an update; 2) recommendations from Linda Edwards – would like a simple response as to the success of the training, how the city plans to respond to the recommendations, how the training will be followed up; 3) what is going to be the plan developed by the Personnel Director.

Cope Cumpston asked for Anne Grabow to keep the commission informed about issues at the high school especially issues that effect the community.

There was a discussion about the WUNA meetings that were recently held with the high school concerning a closed campus for lunch periods and parking.

Ms. Grabow reported on some of the things that students are doing to help.

There was a discussion about the School Resource Officer.

Marion Knight asked for an agenda item to be added for the Student Representative.

Anne Grabow indicated that she would have a representative from the Echo contact Ms. Clark to do an interview about the Martin Luther King Program.

Naomi Jakobsson announced that this would be her last meeting. She has tendered her resignation from the Commission to the Mayor. She will be starting her position as State Representative in January.

Marion Knight thanked her for her years of service to the Commission.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary