

**URBANA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
January 12, 2005**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carl Reisman, Marion Knight, Rachael Dietkus, Lisa Mosley, Cope Cumpston, Peter Resnick, Alex Cater

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ivon Ridgeway

**STAFF PRESENT:** Vacellia Clark

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Amy Kummerow, Ruth Fliegel

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Knight called the meeting of the Urbana Human Relations Commission to order at 5:38 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made to approve the agenda. Motion seconded. All voted aye. The agenda was approved.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2004 were reviewed. Peter Resnick made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Cope Cumpston seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion passed. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**IV. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Sponsorship to National Council of Negro Women**

Lisa Mosely reported that she reviewed the ordinance to see if the National Council of Negro Women's mission met the criteria of the Human Rights Ordinance and the policy concerning monetary contributions passed by the Commission. Ms. Mosley indicated that based upon her review the National Council of Negro Women does meet the criteria.

Rachael Dietkus reported that she contact the event sponsor to see if it would be possible for the Commission to be a co-sponsor for an amount of \$350.00. Ms. Beverly-Lacy indicated that the Commission could be a corporate sponsor, which would include an acknowledgment in their program booklet and include a table of 8 for the banquet for the cost of \$350.00.

Lisa Mosely made a motion to sponsor the National Council of Negro Women in the amount of \$350.00 for their banquet to be held on January 22, 2005. Rachael Dietkus seconded the motion. A discussion followed. There being no further discussion, all voted in favor of the sponsorship. Motion carried.

B. UHS Forum

Alex Cater reported that the tentative date for the forum is February 1<sup>st</sup> and he would like to have 3 Commissioners to give a presentation. The forum will begin at 3:15 p.m. Mrs. Hannah is the sponsor at the high school. Alex indicated that he would like to have the Commission give a presentation about who they are and what they do in the community.

Rachael Dietkus volunteered to represent the ACLU. Cope Cumpston indicated that this would be an opportunity to recruit a student representative for next year.

C. MLK Update

Vacellia Clark reported that Cope Cumpston and Lisa Mosely have volunteered to help coordinator ushers for the MLK program. She indicated that they should be there by 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Clark reported that this year's program has taken on a new dimension, in that they have hired someone to help with the technical aspects. Chris Foster will videotape the program and he has done a fantastic job of putting together the citizen comments along with slides from the civil rights movement.

Ms. Clark reported that she received a late nomination from Canaan Academy and after consulting with Chair Knight it was decided to give an award to Canaan Academy so that the City of Urbana would have 2 awardees along with the other entities.

D. Firefighter McCarty's Complaint to the Commission

Pete Resnick reported that he and Chair Knight met with the Mayor, Ms. Clark and Mona Shannon to discuss Mr. McCarty's complaint. He reported that there are two questions: 1) the city's current policy with regard to benefits for same sex domestic partners and how it relates to discrimination under the Human Rights Ordinance; there are ongoing discussions and another meeting has been scheduled. The Mayor has instructed staff to review whether changes need to be made. 2) There has now been a City employee come before the Commission with a complaint. The Human Rights Ordinance is not specific on how to handle

a complaint from a City employee. This should be discussed and recommendations made to Council to make it clear what needs to be done with when an employee of the City comes before the Commission.

Mr. Resnick summarized by stating that the Committee is waiting to hear back from City Staff and waiting on a review of the Ordinance.

Chair Knight suggested that the review of the Ordinance be a retreat item.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Sponsorship Request**

Rachael Dietkus reported that the YWCA is seeking a co sponsorship from the Human Relations Commission for a film screening to be held on January 30, 2005. She provided the commissioners with information about the screening. A discussion followed.

Carl Reisman made a motion for the Commission to contribute \$100.00 as a co-sponsor of the Deadline Film Screening hosted by the YWCA. Motion seconded by Cope Cumpston. A vote was taken. All voted aye. Motion carried.

### **B. Retreat**

Ms. Clark reported that she recently met with Marion Knight and Cope Cumpston to discuss planning for 2005-2006. Some of the activities suggested were: training dates for Commissioners, with some time being spent reviewing the ordinance a few sections at a time; responsibilities for the Commission, establishing a tester program on rental issues, climate survey, workshop on felony convictions and the impact on people with the label.

Suggested dates for a retreat were discussed. It was decided that the first date would be February 12, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. The second date was set for March 5, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Clark recommended Carl Reisman and Pete Resnick begin a review of the ordinance and what changes should be discussed at the retreat.

Rachael Dietkus and Cope Cumpston volunteered to work on a committee to discuss a community forum on felony convictions. They asked that Ivon Ridgeway also be part of that committee.

Lisa Mosley volunteered to form a committee to look at supervision issues that came out of the Sprout case.

## **VII. OFFICER’S REPORT**

### **A. Officer’s Report**

Ms. Clark reported that she and Steve Holz have met with both sides on the Antwanette Newton case. Additional documentation from the employer was requested. She indicated that she should be able to have recommendation for the commission at the February meeting.

Pete Resnick asked for a summary of what the recommendations are based on.

Ms. Clark reported that she currently has one open case that she feels will be resolved.

Ms. Clark reported that she is currently working with the Personnel department to do training and working on a Harassment Free Policy.

Ms. Clark reported that there is a training that will be offered by Parkland Development Center on family. It will be in two parts. Lisa Mosley has contact information for anyone interested.

Marion Knight asked about a reception for former commissioners. Ms. Clark indicated that she would have something prepared for the February meeting at 5:00 p.m., prior to the meeting.

Marion Knight reminded the Commission that a hearing on damages in the Sprout case will be held on January 18, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

### **B. Budget Report**

Ms. Clark reported that the City will be starting the budget process in February and Commissioners should think about if any changes need to be made in the budget.

Cope Cumpston asked about rolling over monies not used. There was a discussion that this would require City approval.

## **VIII. STUDENT REPORT**

Alex Cater reported on an event to help world hunger. The event will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup> and is still in the planning stages. It will be held at the High School in the commons area and there will be a donation of \$5.00 to attend. Alex will work with Cope Cumpston to get more attention for the event.

Ms. Clark suggested checking with UPTV to see if the event could be video taped and replayed, since Urbana School District is a member of UPTV.

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cope Cumpston distributed a calendar of upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. events.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Knight adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolinda Ross  
Recording Secretary