

**URBANA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 9, 2005**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marion Knight, Daniel Larson, Carl Reisman, Lisa Mosley, Cope Cumpston, Peter Resnick (via telephone) and Alex Cater

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Rachael Dietkus, Ivon Ridgeway

STAFF PRESENT: Vacellia Clark

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Knight called the meeting of the Urbana Human Relations Commission to order at 5:31 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Carl Reisman asked that the ordinance revisions be discussed at the April meeting when Pete Resnick could be present. Following discussion it was agreed that the ordinance revisions would remain on the agenda.

Cope Cumpston asked to add Commission Calendar under New Business.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of February 9, 2005 were reviewed. Carl Reisman 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

Robert Michael Doyle addressed the commission on changes to the ordinance. He indicated that he has contacted the Champaign Human Relations Commission about clarifying some definitions in their ordinance and would like for the City of Urbana to do the same. He also provided the Commission with a copy of the State of Illinois Human Rights Act as recently amended. There was a discussion about specific terminology to be used in the ordinance. The Commission thanked Mr. Doyle for his input.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Antwanette Newton Case

Ms. Clark reported that a letter was included in the packet updating the Commission on the Newton case. There were no further questions by the Commission.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commission Calendar

Cope Cumpston distributed a preliminary calendar for the Commission.

There was a discussion of setting up a panel for supervisors in June to discuss employment practices.

B. Review of Human Rights Ordinance

Peter Resnick led the discussion regarding changes to the Human Rights Ordinance. A summary of suggested changes was included in the packet. The potential changes were reviewed. Following the discussion, Chair Knight suggested contacting the Mayor so that these items could be referred to City Council.

VII. OFFICER'S REPORT

A. Officer's Report

Ms. Clark distributed an updated contact sheet for the Commissioners.

B. Budget Report

A copy of the budget report was distributed.

VIII. STUDENT REPORT

Alex Cater discussed finding a new student representative and discussed prices for advertising the Echo. Alex made a motion that the Commission should pursue a full-page ad one time. Motion seconded by Carl Reisman. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Cope Cumpston to send to the meeting beyond 7:00 pm. Motion seconded by Lisa Mosley. The meeting was extended.

Alex discussed that he has heard accusations that there are certain subdivisions that separate races in the community. He indicated that it pertains to low-income housing.

Ms. Clark reminded the Commission that the Human Relations Officer has no jurisdiction over public housing which would be handled by the Housing Authority of Champaign County. She suggested that residents of public housing should become more involved in planning. There have been a number of public hearings held prior to making decisions, specifically in regards to Lakeside Terrace.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Knight adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary