

**URBANA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
April 13, 2005**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marion Knight, Daniel Larson, Lisa Mosley, Cope Cumpston, Peter Resnick, Rachael Dietkus and Alex Cater

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Ivon Ridgeway

**STAFF PRESENT:** Vacellia Clark

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Amy Kummerow, Ruth Fliegel, Esther Patt, Robert Michael Doyle

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

Chair Knight called the meeting of the Urbana Human Relations Commission to order at 5:36 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of March 9, 2005 were reviewed. Peter Resnick had one revision to the minutes. On page 2 under New Business, Review of Human Rights Ordinance after the last word of the paragraph, the following words should be added: **after a revision is reviewed by the Commission.** A motion was made by Cope Cumpston to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded by Lisa Mosely. All voted aye. The minutes of the meeting of March 9, 2005 were approved as corrected.

**IV. PUBLIC INPUT**

Robert Michael Doyle addressed the Commission and indicated that while he doesn't have any language to propose he would like to see some consistent language. Chair Knight asked Mr. Doyle to put any of his comments on the proposed revisions in writing and submit to the Commission.

Esther Patt addressed the Commission on several issues: She reported that she was wearing all black in support of a National Day of Silence to raise awareness for Gays and Lesbians; Ms. Patt reported that Channel 3 gave a statistic about registered sex offenders and in the two cities there were 55 in Urbana and 116 in Champaign. She commented

that the numbers are proportionate to the population. This would suggested that having felony convictions as protected class does not increase the number of convicted felons living in any community as Rep. Rose indicated in his proposed bill; Ms. Patt offered some suggestions on the proposed changes to the ordinance.

## V. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Community Workshop

Lisa Mosely distributed a draft outline that she is proposing for a community workshop. She reported that this will be a one-day workshop with half spent with Minor Jackson from Parkland College and the second half with Morris Mosley. The workshop will tie in practice vs. policy.

Ms. Clark indicated that the workshop was being targeted to employers who may not have training in their budget or a Human Resource Staff.

Cope Cumpston wondered if it would be possible to breakdown the workshop so that people could attend either a half or whole day. She indicated that it would be nice to post a statement of the ordinance. Ms. Cumpston also asked if there would be a way to tape the program so that parts of it would be available to air on UPTV.

Ms. Mosley indicated that she was thinking of doing an evaluation at the end of the workshop to get some feedback.

It was agreed that June 7<sup>th</sup> would be the target date for the workshop.

### B. Workshop on Felony Convictions

Cope Cumpston reported that she Rachael and Vacellia met to do some brainstorming about having a panel on conviction records. She referred commissioners to the handout.

The format of the workshop was discussed and Ms. Cumpston indicated that she would be looking at later in June to try and schedule on a weekday evening either the week of June 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>.

Marion Knight suggested coordinating with the coordinators and bringing back a date to the May meeting.

### C. Update on Ordinance Revisions

Pete Resnick distributed a copy of the possible ordinance changes that the commission has been reviewing. A discussed followed. Ms. Clark has some suggestions on adding language about being outside of the law or under Title VII, she will get that language to Mr. Resnick.

Mr. Resnick indicated that he will write a sample letter to the Mayor and City Council outlining the changes that the Human Relations Commission is suggesting.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

## **VII. OFFICER'S REPORT**

### **A. Officer's Report**

Ms. Clark reported that Carl Reisman has resigned from the commission effective immediately.

Ms. Clark reported that IHMRA Conference information was included in the packets. If anyone is interested they should let Jolinda Ross know as soon as possible.

Ms. Clark reported that the Urban League is having a function on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. She also reported that she recently took a bus tour that the Urban League sponsored and was extremely impressed with some of the services they are providing.

### **B. Budget Report**

A copy of the budget report was distributed.

Ms. Clark distributed a sample ad to run in the UHS ECHO to advertise for a replacement for Alex Cater.

Marion Knight discussed placing an ad in the Talks Mentoring book. A discussion followed. Peter Resnick made a motion that the commission places an ad for \$100.00 in the Talks Mentoring Program Booklet. Motion was seconded by Daniel Larson. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Cope Cumpston suggested that the Commission should take out 2 half page ads in the Echo.

## **VIII. STUDENT REPORT**

Alex Cater reported that there is currently a study being done by the University of California on violence in multi-racial homes. He also noted that the Urban League is working on a senior celebration radio show discussing this topic.

Lisa Mosely asked if anyone attended the New Prospective on Hunger Banquet. Alex indicated that he thought the banquet went very well. Cope Cumpston commented that she thought the attendance was disappointing but that the discussions were very useful.

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Knight adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolinda Ross  
Recording Secretary