

URBANA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES
April 11, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Candace Godbolt, Daniel Larson, Peter Resnick, Marion Knight, Lisa Mosley, Carol Bradford

STAFF PRESENT: Todd Rent

OTHERS PRESENT: Amy Kummerow

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Knight called the meeting of the Urbana Human Relations Commission to order at 5:32 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to add Electronic Attendance under Old Business and H.R. Workshop under Old Business. There being no objection, the agenda was revised.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of March 14, 2007 were reviewed. A Motion was made by Daniel Larson to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Peter Resnick. All voted aye. The minutes of the meeting of March 14, 2007 were approved.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Amy Kummerow distributed Who's Who booklets to the new members.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Communications Workshop

Peter Resnick reported that he and Daniel Larson have discussed the workshop. The purpose of the workshop would be to have some young people in town discuss discrimination issues they are encountering by using electronic communication such as blogs. He stated that they would be contacting people from Urbana High School and Uni High. They plan to start the workshop for high school students about communication in general and then move into topics of racism, equality, etc.

B. Advertising

Mr. Resnick reported that he and Mr. Rent have discussed doing some advertising for the Commission.

Mr. Rent indicated that he has identified several public service announcements on the Ohio Human Rights Commission website that discusses the human rights laws in Ohio. He is currently looking to see whether or not Urbana could license and tag on our logo. He should have further information at the next meeting.

Mr. Rent reported that he has met with Insight Communications about showing the public service announcements on their channels.

Mr. Resnick reported that he has spoken to Chris Foster about the possibility of piggy backing some commercials as part of the franchise agreement.

C. College Park Letter

Mr. Rent reported that the letter was sent to College Park addressing the concerns that the Commission had concerning their application process. He is currently waiting on a response.

D. Electronic Meeting Participation

Peter Resnick reported that the City Attorney had developed some rules for council. Mr. Resnick indicated that he will be out of town next month on business and would like to participate electronically. He asked Mr. Rent to see if the legal department could review this issue prior to the next meeting.

Chair Knight asked if the rules were mandatory.

Mr. Resnick stated that he was not sure. He also indicated that we will need rules for public hearing purposes.

Chair Knight suggested that we continue using the current practice until further notice.

Mr. Rent stated that he will follow up with the Assistant City Attorney.

E. Human Resources Workshop

Lisa Mosley reported that she is putting together a workshop on “Communication Styles” for businesses in the community. The workshop will be held on June 22 from 9 – Noon with lunch following at the Urbana Holiday Inn.

V. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

VII. OFFICER’S REPORT

A. HRO Activity Report

Mr. Rent reported that he received two complaints this month in regards to housing and both were due to a prior conviction. He is currently checking on jurisdiction.

He indicated that he is also checking into an employment complaint which may be an ADA complaint.

Mr. Rent reported that he has discussed the proposed revisions to the Human Rights Ordinance with the new Assistant City Attorney, who will be reviewing them.

Mr. Rent indicated that he included a letter in the packets that he would like to send out to businesses reminding them of the City's Human Rights Ordinance. He indicated that he would red flag those businesses that he will contact in person.

The Commission was in agreement with the text of the letter.

B. Budget Report

The budget report was reviewed.

C. EEO Workforce Statistics

Mr. Rent referred the Commissioners to the following EEO Forms that were included in the packets:

Carriage Auto Bumper to Bumper

Mr. Rent reported that their EEO Statement on their application does not include all of the City's protected classes. He recommends that they provide a statement that their protected classes are the same as the City ordinance or that they adopt our EEO Statement. They are a small company.

Commercial Builders

Mr. Rent reported that this is also a very small company. He expressed concern that their sexual harassment policy seems to be very abbreviated and asked if we should contact them for a modified statement.

Daniel Larson moved to approve the above vendors for two years once the additional documentation is provided. Motion seconded. All voted aye. The motion was approved and certificates will be sent once the required documentation is submitted.

VIII. STUDENT REPORT

There was no student report.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Bradford reported that she has received an application for a student representative and will be forwarding it on to the Mayor's office.

Mr. Rent reported that he has made it a priority to get the Insight case scheduled as quickly as possible within the bounds of the ordinance. He stated that the HRO has the authority to set a date which would be no less than 30 days. He is currently looking at the beginning of June and will follow up with the Commissioners once a date has been set.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary