

URBANA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES
August 8, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Resnick, Marion Knight, Daniel Larson (by phone)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Lisa Mosley, Carol Bradford

MEMBERS ABSENT: Candace Godbolt

STAFF PRESENT: Todd Rent

OTHERS PRESENT: Ronald O'Neal, Tracy Nally, John Thies, Aisha Sobh

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Knight called the meeting of the Urbana Human Relations Commission to order at 5:35 p.m. There being no quorum, the meeting will be discussion only. No action will be taken.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to add a Discussion of Open Meetings Act under New Business and to add Hearing Rules.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of May 9, 2007 were reviewed. Approval of the minutes will be deferred until a quorum is present.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Rent discussed the public service announcements and indicated that he has obtained DVDs and hopes to have one ready by the next meeting.

He reported that he has included in the packet a set of rules for EEO Certification. He would appreciate commissioners submitting comments to him so that this can be discussed at the next meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Resnick started the discussion by updating the record to indicate that a motion was made off the record as to minutes of closed sessions and how they relate to the open meetings act. The closed sessions were held on June 12 and 13.

Hearing Officer Nally summarized the motion for the Commission. She stated that after reviewing the motion and reviewing the Open Meetings Act, she had the minutes of the closed session on June 14, 2007 transcribed. Ms. Nally indicated that she sent each of the four participating commissioners a copy of the transcript.

Ms. Nally stated that according to the Open Meetings Act the decision to allow minutes of a closed session to be released is a decision that the Commission would need to vote on. She indicated that the Commission would vote to release the minutes or to release the entire transcript.

John Thies addressed the Commission on the motion and stated the position of the Respondent.

Ron O'Neal responded on behalf of the City.

Chair Knight scheduled a Special Meeting on August 13, 2007 at Noon to revisit the Motion and have a vote by the Commission.

Commissioner Resnick commented that the experience of this hearing and the previous public hearing has made the Commission realize how much time a public hearing consumes. He stated that he would like to have a discussion one this hearing is completed to see how things could move along to speed things up.

VII. OFFICERS REPORT

Mr. Rent reported that he has received 3 employment complaints based on race, 1 employment complaint based on personal appearance, 1 housing complaint and 1 employment case based on race that was deferred. He indicated that he received one complaint that was not from a protected class.

EEO Approvals will be deferred until this next meeting.

Commissioner Larson reported that he is troubled by the statistics of the Champaign County Visitor's Bureau.

Mr. Rent recommended that the EEO statistics be reviewed at the Special Meeting on August 13, 2007.

VIII. STUDENT REPORT

There was no student report.


IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary