

**URBANA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES
October 10, 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marion Knight, Carol Bradford, Lisa Mosley, Peter Resnick, Daniel Larson, Jeniece Mitchell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Candace Goldbolt

STAFF PRESENT: Todd Rent

OTHERS PRESENT: Amy Kummerow, League of Women Voters

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.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of August 8, 2007 were reviewed. Commissioner Resnick asked that "absent and excused" be listed together as "absent". A Motion was made by Commissioner Resnick to approve the minutes as amended. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Mosley. All voted aye. The minutes of the meeting of August 8, 2007 were approved as amended.

The minutes of the Special Meeting on August 13, 2007 were reviewed. Commissioner Resnick made a motion to approve the minutes with the following amendment on page 3 of the minutes as follows: "Tracy Nally denied Respondent's motion saying that she does not have authority to rule on this matter, she will reduce her ruling to written form." Motion seconded by Commissioner Larson. All voted aye. The minutes of the meeting of August 13, 2007 were approved as amended.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Amy Kummerow of the League of Women Voter's distributed copies of the new Who's Who in Government booklets.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Commissioner Resnick asked about the status of distributing signs to businesses stating what the ordinance covers.

Mr. Rent reported that the signs have been ordered. If there are any particular businesses that Commissioners would like for the HRO to speak to personally, just let him know.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. UPTV Discussion

Commissioner Resnick updated the Commission about a complaint that was made to the UPTV Commission with regards to a program aired on the public access portion of UPTV. The material contained anti-semantic views. He reported that the view of the UPTV Commission was to put a disclaimer before and after the program, rather than eliminating the programming completely.

Commissioner Resnick suggested that since the Human Rights Ordinance is to address issues of discrimination then maybe the Commission could sponsor a program on UPTV to address these issues.

Chair Knight asked that Commissioner Resnick and Commissioner Bradford brainstorm and bring back something for the Commission to discuss.

Commissioner Mosley asked about the previous suggestion that the Commission run some public service announcements.

Mr. Rent indicated that he is working on that and it is important that the voice of the Commission be heard.

B. Update on Insight Public Hearing

Mr. Rent reported that the parties are working on a settlement in this matter and he would expect that the negotiation would be complete by the November meeting.

Commissioner Resnick indicated that he would expect the parties to be present when the resolution is presented to the Commission.

VII. OFFICER'S REPORT

A. HRO Activity Report

Mr. Rent distributed a copy of Proposed Rules and Procedures for Completing EEO Forms. He stated that he would like to take a more comprehensive approach to EEO certification. Any suggestions commissioners have are welcome.

Mr. Rent distributed a draft of a survey he would like to send to vendors. This is an attempt to start a dialogue with them to make for a more meaningful process

for getting a more diverse work force. He indicated that once the survey information is returned he will be setting up a focus group.

Commissioner Bradford indicated a concern with asking for diversity in the workplace. She is concerned about the environment, is the workplace “diversity friendly” and are employees getting diversity training.

Mr. Rent distributed an amended EEO Application form. He is suggesting a few changes in the language to make our expectations clear.

Mr. Rent reported that he has complimentary tickets for any commissioners wanting to attend the C-U Humanitarian Awards.

Mr. Rent distributed a Complaint Activity Report which was reviewed by the Commission.

B. Budget Report

No budget report was given this month.

C. EEO Workforce Statistics

The Commission first reviewed those vendors that were applying for initial certification.

Mr. Rent reported that he is looking at the system to see what can be done to make it easier for vendors and make it easier for them to complete the paperwork more efficiently.

Commissioner Resnick made a motion to approve the following:

Tyson Corporation for 1 year
Farnsworth Group for 1 year
Cannon, Cochran for 2 years
Merrill Lynch for 2 years

Motion seconded by Commissioner Mosley. All voted aye. Motion approved.

Commissioner Resnick made a motion to approve the following, pending receipt of documentation:

Soderman & Associations for 1 year
Berns Clancy for 1 year
Thompson West for 1 year
Martin Hood for 1 year

Rich & Associates for 2 years
J P Morgan for 2 years

Motion seconded by Commissioner Larson. All vote aye. Motion approved.

Commissioner Mosley made a motion to approve Strategic Energy, LLC for 2 years. Motion seconded by Commissioner Resnick. All voted aye. Motion approved.

The numbers for Stark Excavating were reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Resnick to approve for 1 year. Motion seconded by Commissioner Mosley.

Commissioner Larson asked if a letter could be sent to acknowledge that there has been improvement.

There being no further questions. All vote aye. The motion was approved.

VIII. STUDENT REPORT

Jeniece Mitchell read the mission statement for the Urbana School District's Educational Equity Steering Committee.

Chair Knight reminded Ms. Mitchell that anything that her group comes up with as a school issue but not a City issue, the Commission would be glad to advise her on.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Rent reported that the MLK Program is in the planning process and nomination letters will be sent out this week.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary