

**URBANA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
March 12, 2003**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marion Knight, Carl Reisman, Ralph Langenheim, Turk Peacock, Cope Cumpston, Ivon Ridgeway, Lester Pritchard, Anne Grabow

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tatiana Camargo-Schrader

**STAFF PRESENT:** Vacellia Clark

**GUESTS:** Ruth Fliegel, Esther Patt, Cleveland Jefferson, Lisa Mosley, Chief Mundt, Mayor Satterthwaite

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

There being a quorum, Chair Knight called the meeting of the Urbana Human Relations Commission to order at 5:35 p.m.

**II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Turk Peacock distributed a handout and indicated that he would like to discuss it under City Hiring Update.

A change was made in the agenda to move Mayor Satterthwaite before Chief Mundt on the agenda.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of February 12, 2003 were reviewed. Ralph Langenheim indicated that his name should be removed from "Excused" in the minutes, as he was present. Motion by Ralph Langenheim to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Turk Peacock. All vote aye. The minutes of the meeting of February 12, 2003 were approved as corrected.

**IV. PUBLIC INPUT -**

There was no public input.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Mayor Satterthwaite

The Mayor addressed the commission and indicated that he would be recommending to the City Council the appointment of Lisa Mosley to the Human Relations Commission.

The Mayor discussed the proposed changes in the Human Relations Ordinance and the Hearing Rules of Procedures that will be coming before the City Council. These changes were proposed by Esther Patt to address the problem of a change in the make up of the Commission while a public hearing is pending.

The Mayor gave thanks to the Commission for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and other events that they have sponsored.

Mayor Satterthwaite indicated that he and Ms. Clark have discussed having the commission sponsor workshops for landlords and employers.

The Mayor reported that he has discussed with several commissioners the dual role that the Commission serves in being an advocate and then becoming a member of a hearing body. He indicated that he would be willing to entertain suggestions on how to make that dual role less difficult for the Commission.

Cope Cumpston asked the Mayor if he had any sense of how a dual role of the Commission would be discussed and if it would require a rewrite of the ordinance.

The Mayor indicated that he does not think it would be a major rewrite and no change in rights but more of a change in policy and he would entertain any suggestions on what those changes should be. He suggested having the current commission as the advocate body and having a separate hearing body. The hearing body would require training and would only be needed when there was a need for hearing.

B. Chief Rex Mundt

Fire Chief, Rex Mundt addressed the Commission on HB1195. He distributed information to each commissioner on this bill. He indicated that this bill would require firefighter promotion based on seniority. The policy of the City of Urbana currently looks at the top 3 candidates. Chief Mundt indicated that passage of this bill would probably set the City back about 10 years in terms of minority recruitment.

Ms. Clark indicated that Legislative Committee of IHMRA would be opposing this bill. She also stated that this bill would be a huge obstacle for future promotions within the City.

Ralph Langenheim suggested that the commission endorse sending a letter to Representative Naomi Jakobsson.

Cleveland Jefferson addressed the Commission on his review of HB1195. He indicated that the bill takes away home rule. He stated that if the commission is considering endorsing on a standpoint of diversity, it could go either way. He indicated that the NAACP is trying to get the bill amended to make it friendlier to persons of color. He stated that he does not feel the current system has helped diversity. He stressed that the bill is not solely based on seniority and that the NAACP is looking at rewrites on the seniority piece.

**A motion was made to extend the meeting beyond 7:00 p.m. by Lester Pritchard, motion seconded by Cope Cumpston. A vote was taken as follows:**

<b>Cumpston</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Knight</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Peacock</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Langenheim</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Pritchard</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Ridgeway</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Reisman</b>	<b>Aye</b>		

**Motion carried, the meeting was extended beyond 7:00 p.m.**

Vacellia Clark will draft a letter to Representative Naomi Jakobsson stating what the Commission's opposition to HB1105 is. She will email a draft to the Commissioners.

C. Guidelines for Community Donations

Commissioners are to review the information provided and this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

A. City Hiring Update for 2002

Ms. Clark distributed a handout that show hiring results from January through this date.

Turk Peacock reported that he and Cope Cumpston developed a draft of concerns with the City's hiring practices, as a result of the presentation from Bruce Walden and Mona Shannon. Commissioners should review the draft and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

B. Vendors over \$10,000

Cope Cumpston asked that this item be discussed at the next meeting.

C. Proposed Changes to Human Rights Ordinance

Carl Reisman stated that he feels any change of a dual role for the Commission should be discussed at the next meeting.

**VII. OFFICER'S REPORT**

A. HRO Activity Report

Ms. Clark distributed a copy of her monthly report. She reported that she currently has two cases that will be coming to the Commission for public hearing. She also indicated that a new hearing officer will need to be identified in addition to a new prosecutor for the City.

B. Budget Report

A copy of the report was distributed to the Commission.

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Clark reported that the Commission meetings would start being aired on UPTV, she suggested starting with the June meeting. There was no objection.

Chair Knight stressed the importance of meeting attendance, especially with two public hearings coming up.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. All voted aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolinda Ross  
Recording Secretary