

**URBANA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES
April 9, 2003**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marion Knight, Lisa Mosley, Cope Cumpston, Tatiana Camargo-Schrader, Turk Peacock, Ivon Ridgeway, Ralph Langenheim, Carl Reisman, Lester Pritchard, Anne Grabow, Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Vacellia Clark

GUESTS: Ruth Fliegel, Amy Kummerow

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

There were no additions to the agenda

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of March 12, 2003 were reviewed. A motion was made by Cope Cumpston and seconded by Ivon Ridgeway to approve the minutes. All voted aye. The minutes of the meeting of March 12, 2003 were approved as distributed.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT -

There was no public input.

V. STUDENT REPORT

A change was made in the agenda to allow for the Student Representative Report before new business.

Anne Grabow reported that Statewide ACT testing would be coming up.

Ms. Grabow reported that budget cuts have affected several student activities, i.e., student yearbook, student senate. These two activities will now be held after school, which will affect student athletes.

Ms. Grabow reported that the Student Senate is planning Harmony Week, which will include several panel discussions such as sexual orientation and race relations.

Ms. Grabow reported that the trash problem around the neighborhood of the high school seems to be getting better.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Community Donations

The Commission reviewed the proposed policy on cash awards as presented by Lester Pritchard.

A discussion followed. After discussion, the Commission agreed on a policy as attached.

A motion was made by Turk Peacock to accept the policy as amended. The motion was seconded by Carl Reisman. There being no questions, a voice vote was taken. All voted aye. The motion was approved.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. City Hiring Update for 2002

The Commission reviewed the draft of the letter to City administration as follow up to the presentation at the January meeting. It was recommended that the Commission's letter be addressed to the Mayor with copies to Bruce Walden and Mona Shannon. Turk Peacock reported that this letter was to respond to Bruce Walden and Mona Shannon's presentation to the Commission in January. This is the beginning of the process to work with the city to improve diversity.

B. Vendors over \$10,000

Marion Knight indicated that this issue originally came up because any contract over \$10,000 is to be reviewed by the Human Relations Officer.

The commission reviewed a copy of the CPF for Champaign Telephone Company. There was a discussion concerning language in the ordinance that allows for review of the CPF's.

Ms. Clark indicated that she has met before with key organizations that have low diversity within their organization and given them assistance in how they might recruit minorities.

There was discussion of the EEO Ordinance. A copy will be mailed to all commissioners.

Ms. Clark reported that she would check with the Staff of the City of Champaign to see if they have a written process for reviewing their CPFs.

C. Proposed Changes to Human Rights Ordinance

Ruth Fliegel asked for permission to address the Commission on this issue. There was no objection. Ms. Fliegel indicated that at last month's meeting there was a suggestion of having two separate bodies set up, one to be an advocate and the other to hear cases set for public hearings. She indicated that she is interested in how the Commission proceeds with this issue, in hopes that the City of Champaign might adopt some changes since it has had several public hearings overturned.

Carl Reisman indicated that the Commissioner's should each have received a copy of proposed changes to the hearing procedures. The handout was discussed briefly and Mr. Reisman suggested having it prepared in a strike out version so that it would be easier to see what the proposed changes are. This item will be prepared in strike out version and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Marion Knight reported that commissioners should have received several letters from Alderperson, Esther Patt.

Ralph Langenheim moved to table the discussion on proposed changes to the HR Ordinance, letter from Esther Patt and hearing procedures. Motion seconded by Carl Reisman.

After further discussion, a voice vote was taken and all voted aye. Motion to table the discussion on the proposed changes to the HR Ordinance and the letter from Esther Patt approved.

A motion was made by Ivon Ridgeway to extend the meeting beyond 7:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Lester Pritchard. A vote was taken as follows:

Knight	Yes	Cumpston	Yes
Langenheim	Nay	Pritchard	Yes
Peacock	Yes	Reisman	Yes
Mosley	Yes	Camargo-Schraeder	Yes
Ridgeway	Yes		

VII. OFFICER’S REPORT

A. HRO Activity Report

Ms. Clark distributed a copy of her monthly report.

B. Budget Report

A copy of the report was distributed to the Commission.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lester Pritchard asked about the status of fair housing training. Ms. Clark reported that she has discussed with the CD Staff; however, they do not currently have any monies to contribute.

Ms. Clark reported that the City of Champaign Staff would like to partner with the City of Urbana to do testing. The cost would be approximately \$3,500 and 50 – 60 people would be needed to be testers. Additional monies would be needed to pay testers, which would be at \$50.00 per test. Ms. Clark indicated that have been discussions about who would be administering the program.

Mr. Pritchard indicated that there is still money available in the Commission’s budget for training and the commission needs to decide how it will utilize that. He suggested have another training on public hearings.

Ms. Clark asked if any of the Commissioner’s would have any interest in leadership development training. She also suggested training on parliamentary procedures. Ms. Clark stated that she would provide the commissioners with a list of potential training.

Marion Knight announced that at the next meeting a date will need to be set for a public hearing, all commissioners need to be present.

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 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary