

**URBANA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
February 11, 2004**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Resnick, Cope Cumpston, Marion Knight, Lester Pritchard, Ivon Ridgeway, Lisa Mosley, Alex Cater, Student Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:** Vacellia Clark

**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 5:37 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Cope Cumpston to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Lisa Mosley. All voted aye. Motion approved.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2004 were reviewed. A motion was made by Peter Resnick to approve the minutes with typographical errors corrected. Motion seconded by Cope Cumpston. All voted aye. The minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2004 were approved.

**IV. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Create Spring Calendar**

Cope Cumpston suggested that a spring calendar be done.

Vacellia Clark gave an update of activities in February. She reported that on February 9<sup>th</sup> she attended a NAPIT Program at Urbana High School. After talking with Ms. Mitchell at the high school, it was decided that the NAPIT Program would be a more appropriate venue for Ms. Clark to speak rather than at their Black History Program. Ms. Clark spoke to the group and told them what her office does.

Marion Knight stated that at the Commission Retreat in December, the Commission had decided to set some goals and objectives and to prioritize projects. Mr. Knight asked Peter Resnick for an update on the survey.

Mr. Resnick reported that he has just recently made contact with Mr. Ridgeway and they will be planning on meeting to discuss the survey. They will be reviewing what can be done within the budget.

Mr. Knight indicated that the Commission had agreed to work on one project at a time. Since a committee was formed to work on the survey, perhaps the commission could move on to the next project. One item that the Commission had expressed interest in was city contracts.

Ms. Clark suggested streamlining what types of contracts the Commission would want to review.

Peter Resnick indicated that the ordinance talks about review of contracts over \$5,000, however, that would be an enormous amount of contracts for the Commission to review. He suggested looking at contracts over \$50,000, which may result in a few contracts a month to review for hiring practices. He indicated that might more in the ball park of something the Commission could handle. Mr. Resnick suggested that the Chair forward a letter to the City requesting all contracts over \$50,000 be forwarded for review under the terms of the ordinance.

Ms. Clark asked what portions of the contract the Commission would like to review, i.e., workforce breakdown.

Marion Knight asked that Peter Resnick and Lisa Mosely would meet and review the ordinance so that the Commission can proceed with the request. This item will be brought back to the next meeting.

There was a discussion about the routing process of City contracts.

#### B. City's Web Page

Cope Cumpston reported that she had distributed information showing what she and Peter Resnick had talked with Bill DeJarnette about. She indicated that Mr. DeJarnette was very open to adding links and making changes that the Commission may want to make to the web site. Ms. Cumpston discussed links that could be added on the Human Relations Commission page, in addition to documents that could be placed on the web page.

Peter Resnick indicated that the next move is to start collecting from Commissioners what items they would like to add and then handing them off to Mr. DeJarnette.

Cope Cumpston asked for comments or thoughts about any of these items that might be left off of the web page.

Lester Pritchard asked the status of the dates for the public hearing in Sprout vs. Carle. Mr. Knight indicated that the dates are scheduled for May 4 – 7<sup>th</sup>.

There was a discussion about this case being moved back several times and the need for the Commission to hear cases in a timely manner. Ms. Clark suggested that a letter be sent to the hearing officer from the Chair expressing the Commission's concern with the lengthy delay of the process and encourage them to have no further delays.

Chair Knight asked for the status of the Annual Report. Ms. Clark reported that a rough draft had been completed and it should be finalized. Ms. Clark would like to have it put in an attractive format.

Cope Cumpston asked if Ms. Clark had contacted WILL on underwriting a program for Black History Month. Ms. Clark reported that the request was made at a late date and was not feasible for Black History Month. She will obtain a calendar for the year of when other underwriting can be done.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

Peter Resnick reported that he saw State's Attorney Piland on the news discussing a database that the Clerk's office put out to search for people's criminal records. Mr. Piland stated in the interview that this information could be used by landlords and employers to look up criminal records. He asked if it would be appropriate for the Commission to send a letter to Mr. Piland in this regard and remind him of the City Ordinance. Ms. Clark stated that employers should be made aware that although that information may be accessible it's not necessarily legal for them to use it.

A discussion followed. Chair Knight asked Lester Pritchard to draft a letter to be sent to Mr. Piland.

Ms. Clark suggested that the web site or UPTV be used to put some information out to the general public regarding the ordinance.

## **VII. OFFICER'S REPORT**

Ms. Clark reported that the attendance at the MLK Program was very good. She reported that they are still trying to wrap up the loose ends and then begin moving forward with planning the 2005 program. She asked for some feedback from Commissioner's regarding the time of day that the program was held. A discussion followed.

Marion Knight stated that the MLK Program is the Commission's program and the Commission is very fortunate that Ms. Clark has done most of the work for them. He extended a thank you to her for all the work that she does on the program.

Ms. Clark extended an invitation to the Commissioners to sit in on the meetings that the MLK Committee holds. She also indicated that they are always open for creative ideas and talent.

Ms. Clark stated that Chris Foster is another resource in term of community education; he's always willing to looking at items to add to UPTV.

A. HRO Activity Report

The HRO Activity Report was distributed.

B. Budget Report

The Commission reviewed the budget report.

Ms. Clark reported that the Affordable Housing Workshop is being put on by the Community Development Department's of the cities. If there is something that we would like them to add to the program, she can contact our Community Development Department.

Ms. Clark reported that the Mayor left copies of the Project 18 Community Report Card for each commissioner.

Marion Knight indicated that the Personnel Director should be invited to attend the April meeting.

**VIII. STUDENT REPORT**

Alex Cater reported that Urbana High School administration is looking at ways it can bridge the gap in testing scores.

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cope Cumpston announced that the YWCA Black Women's Achievement Dinner would be held on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Knight adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolinda Ross  
Recording Secretary