

**Human Right Commission  
January 8, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Randy Cole, Noel English, Marie Glaze, Mark Thomas

**Members Excused:** Glenn Glasgow, Oona Paredes, Valeta Snell

**Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Steve Hollis, Shawna Victor, Nanette Ward

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. **Approval of Agenda:** Thomas made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cole and passed unanimously.

III. **Approval of November 6, 2007 Meeting Minutes:** Thomas made a motion to approve the November 6, 2007 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Cole and passed unanimously.

IV. **Old Business**

- **Citizen Review Board:** Glaze said a committee has been formed to discuss the possible need for a Citizen Review Board. The committee has not made any recommendations to the Council at this time.

Thomas asked if the commission would be interested in having a committee member come to a commission meeting to discuss where the committee is in the process. Glaze suggested commission members could also attend the committee's next meeting. There was no objection. Staff will let the commission know when the next committee meeting is.

- **Investigative process:** Hollis said Alicia Cornish, former investigator, rewrote the policy in a format more typical of OCS policies. He would like to review the document and present it to the commission at the February meeting.
- **Review of FY2009 Human Rights Enhancement RFP:** Hollis said the commission brought up the issue at the November 2007 meeting about the Request for Proposals (RFP) being for human rights or multicultural programs.

Thomas said Paredes was going to bring examples to the meeting. Since she is not present, Thomas asked if this could be tabled to the next meeting. There was no objection to this request.

English asked if the commission thought there needed to be a change of focus. Glaze noted years ago, the commission at that time, moved more toward multiculturalism with the RFP. She said the commission can make the change back to focus human rights if they so desire.

V. **New Business:** Cole said he attended the community meeting in December about violence in the community. This event was well attended by a diverse group. There was no agenda for the meeting and people were not sure who was running the meeting so many people left the meeting. There was a panel from the community including:, Michael Hayes with the Columbia Police Department, Phil Steinhaus with the Columbia Housing Authority, Lorenzo

Lawson with Youth Empowerment Zone, Mayor Darwin Hindman, and Dr. Phyllis Chase with the Columbia public Schools.

Hollis said he also attended the meeting and was frustrated by the lack of structure and plan of action. After the meeting was over, he spoke with Ward about this being a good topic for the "Let's Talk, Columbia!" program. This would be a structured environment for people to have a discussion about community violence and yotuh. Youth Community Coalition will be a partner for this event.

## VI. Staff Reports

- A. Community Services:** Hollis said staff is working on the Diversity Celebration, which is January 17 at 7:00.m.

Alicia Cornish is no longer with the City. She has graduated from Law School and is now studying for the bar.

- B. Law Department:** No report at this time.

- C. Investigator:** Ward said there have been a few inquiries.

- D. Community Educator:** Ward said on January 24, there will be "Youth Speak!" at Cherry Street Artisan. This will be an opportunity for students who submitted essays and poems for the Diversity Celebration to read their work.

Because of the topic for this year's "Let's Talk, Columbia!", there will be a facilitator training February 1 and 2. The training is for anyone in the community who would like to become a facilitator. The focus for the weekend will be an intergenerational dialogue. "Let's Talk, Columbia!" will be February 22 and 23.

The Columbia Missourian will be having their 100 year anniversary this year and have suggested a partnership with OCS in fostering citizen dialogues throughout the year.

Later this year, the U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI will be hold a forum for citizens to let them know what the FBI can and cannot do.

- VII. Public Comment:** There was no public present.

- VIII. Commissioner Comment:** English asked about the Investigator position and if it would be posted. Hollis said he is working on this item.

- IX. Closed Session to Discuss Pending Cases Pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo.:** English made a motion to move to closed session to discuss pending cases pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo. The motion was seconded by Thomas and a roll call vote was taken. Cole called the roll with the following vote: Cole – Yes, Glaze – Yes, Thomas – Yes, English – Yes.

- X. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis, Manager  
Office of Community Services