

**Human Right Commission
April 1, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Randy Cole, Glenn Glasgow, Oona Paredes, Mark Thomas, Marie Glaze, Mary Bixby

Members Excused: Valeta Snell

Staff Present: Steve Hollis, Shawna Victor, Fred Boeckmann, Nanette Ward

Others Present: Megan Bailey and Whitney Wideman, students at Columbia College

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Glaze
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Thomas made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and passed unanimously.
- III. **Approval of March 4, 2008 Meeting Minutes:** Glasgow made a motion to approve the March 4, 2008 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Thomas and passed unanimously.
- IV. **Old Business**
 - **Review of FY2009 Human Rights Enhancement RFP:** Glaze said the commission has previously discussed this item and had directed staff to create a draft of the second sentence of the first paragraph based on the commission discussion at the February 2008 meeting. Staff proposed the second sentence of the paragraph to read, "Programs pertaining to the issues of discrimination, diversity, inclusion, tolerance, multicultural education, and related human rights issues will be considered for funding."

Thomas said he liked the staff's recommended wording.

Paredes read what was in the February minutes. Hollis said he was unclear about the final consensus and this wording is as close an approximation as he could produce.

Thomas moved to accept the proposed change in the wording of the introductory paragraph of the FY2009 Human Rights Enhancement Program Request for Proposals as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Cole and passed unanimously.

Bixby asked if "and/or" could be added to the end of Article III. Hollis said that is quoting City Ordinance so the Commission cannot make any changes to that wording.
 - **Election of Officers:** Glaze said she is currently the Chair, Snell is the Vice-Chair and Cole is the Secretary. Glaze turned the meeting over to Cole for the election of officers.

Cole asked for nominations. Paredes nominated Cole as Vice-Chair. Cole said he would be willing to be Vice-Chair.

Paredes nominated Glaze as Chair. Glaze said she would be willing to be Chair.

Paredes nominated Thomas as Secretary. Thomas said he would be willing to be Secretary.

Paredes made a motion to nominate Glaze as Chair, Cole as Vice-Chair and Thomas as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Bixby and passed unanimously.

V. **New Business:** Hollis said all city board and commission chairs received a survey from Council about what their goals over the next fiscal year.

- **Question 1: What projects/issues do you expect your board or commission will work on for the balance of this fiscal year and next fiscal year?** Glaze said the commission would be working on updating the RFP for the annual Human Rights Enhancement Program funding, consider Human Rights cases as filed, and continue the community circles program. Ward suggested including items that were recommended by the Visioning process pertaining to this commission.

Thomas suggested adding that the commission will follow the discussions of the committee that is reviewing the question of possible establishment of a Citizen Review Board.

Bixby suggested including the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration. Hollis said that is actually handled by another planning committee but the Human Rights Commission is a sustaining sponsor.

Paredes also suggested continuing sponsorship of local events addressing immediate human rights issues, such as Not In Our Town. Hollis said that it could be worded to read to continue promotion of human rights education.

All commissioners agreed to these suggestions.

- **Question 2: Are there policy changes and/or issues in your commission's area of responsibility that you believe needs attention?** Thomas said having the community educator position be changed to a full time benefited employee. Glaze and Paredes said they believe this should be the response to question four.

Thomas suggested the answer be something along these lines: "Expanded dialogue with the community, as a result of recent study circle events and requests of the visioning process, will require additional staff time in support of these activities."

The commission agreed to this suggestion.

- **Question 3: What results/end products do you plan to achieve?** Cole said the result would be a greater understanding of human rights issues in the community.

Glaze suggested using line two of the introduction paragraph of the human rights enhancement proposal.

Thomas said the commission wants the city to have the highest quality of life possible.

The commission agreed to these suggestions.

- **Question 4: Will any of these projects require additional funding? If so, please explain and provide a budget estimate.** Thomas said this would be the place to request moving the community educator to a full-time, benefited position.

The commission agreed to this suggestion

- **Question 5: Are there additional duties/responsibilities which your commission would like City Council to consider officially adding to the commission? Other changes to the legislation creating your commission (e.g. membership)?** Thomas said the commissions should request to have representation on the Citizen Review Board, if established. Glaze said this has been discussed by the commission in the past.

Hollis noted there is a precedent to have liaisons to other commissions and boards.

The commission agreed to this suggestion.

- **Part 2 Question 1: Does your commission have suggestion for improving communications?** Thomas suggested having Council respond to e-mails in a more timely manner.
- **Part 2 Question 2: Is there anything else you would like Council to be aware of?** Thomas said the commission should thank the Council for their volunteer time.

Hollis said he and Paredes will work on inputting the answers on the survey template. He will e-mail the responses to the commission. If they would like anything clarified, they should respond to him only. This will not be a time to make any additions to the responses.

VI. Staff Reports

- A. **Community Services:** Hollis said he has received a final report from Stephens College. He has some questions regarding the report and will send the report to the commission after he has received clarification.

Hollis said he has been very impressed with the efforts of the Stop Trafficking program. They contacted Hollis about using facilitators for their conference and Nanette, along with other trained facilitators, participated in the event. There was an issue with the program on its handling of a situation with the Shelter. He believes this issue will be resolved. This program has brought to light a problem in the community and believes the effort will continue.

Ward noted this was presented in a way to make this a local issue, which it is, and provided the groundwork to continue to create awareness of and address this issue.

Hollis said the Diversity Celebration has been given a national award from the National League of Cities. He believes the main reason why the City received this award is because of the work done throughout the year by staff and the Human Rights Commission.

Thomas noted the Council should be made aware of this award and should put that

as a point under part two question two of the survey.

- B. Law Department:** No report at this time.
- C. Human Rights staff:** Ward said the follow up to the “Let’s Talk, Columbia!” weekend on March 4 was very successful. She believes the meeting made a significant contribution to the community issues of youth and the recent spike in crime. During the meeting, participants broke into groups based on the “5 Promises” adopted by the Youth Community Coalition in order to make Columbia one of the 100 best communities for youth.

Hollis thanked Ward for all of her time and effort she put into the “Let’s Talk, Columbia!” weekend and the follow up meeting.

Ward said she attended the Stop Trafficking conference. All the participants were assigned to small groups and the groups stayed together for the entire weekend. There was a diverse representation of people at the conference. The FBI and U.S. Department of Treasury were attending. These two agencies will have representation at the CREST meeting.

The CREST Training will be April 3, 2008.

The Citizen Oversight Committee will hold meetings on April 10, 12 and 17.

- VII. Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
- VIII. Commissioner Comment:** There were no Commissioner comments.
- IX. Closed Session to Discuss Pending Cases Pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo.:** Thomas made a motion to move to closed session to discuss pending cases pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo. The motion was seconded by Cole and a roll call vote was taken. Thomas called the roll with the following vote: Cole – Yes, Thomas – Yes, Paredes – Yes, Glasgow – Yes, Glaze – Yes, Bixby – Yes.
- X. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis, Manager
Office of Community Services