

**Human Right Commission  
September 2, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Randy Cole, Glenn Glasgow, Oona Paredes, Valeta Snell, Mark Thomas

**Members Excused:** Mary Bixby, Marie Glaze.

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

**Others Present:**

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Cole
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** The commission approved the agenda by consent vote.
- III. **Approval of July 1, 2008 Meeting Minutes:** The commission approved the July 1, 2008 meeting minutes by consent vote
- IV. **Old Business**

- A. **Increased partnerships with the University of Missouri:** Thomas said he has not been able to speak with Roger Worthington, Chief Diversity Officer for the University of Missouri-Columbia. He requested this item be discussed at the next meeting. There was no objection to this request.

Glasgow asked if anyone knew the status of the Citizen Review Board. Thomas said he believes the committee agreed to make a recommendation to City Council to move forward with a Citizen Review Board. Hollis said the Council would be the body to determine how the board would function, if they choose to establish a Citizen Review Board.

**V. New Business**

- A. **Request from League of Women Voters to co-sponsor local celebration of Constitution Day:** Hollis said the League of Women Voters has requested the Commission be a co-sponsor, in name only, of their Constitution Day celebration.

Thomas moved to allow the "City of Columbia Human Rights Commission" to be a sponsor of the League of Women Voters Constitution Day. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and passed unanimously.

Hollis noted Constitution Day will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2008 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library.

**VI. Staff Reports**

- A. **Community Services:** Hollis said the Human Rights Enhancement Program Request for Proposals was mailed last week. The RFP was mailed to more organizations than in the past in order to create increased awareness of the availability of funding. Application are due September 26, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. The commission will hold its work session agency hearings on October 28, 2008.

Columbia Friends of China submitted their final report and Hollis e-mailed a copy to the commissioners for their review.

Hollis said there have been several reporters arrested at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota this week. He is following this story as this is a human rights issue.

The budget for the City is not looking good if the economy continues as it is now, but Council has given approval to create a permanent, benefited human rights position. This will begin October 1, 2008.

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

**C. Human Rights staff:** Ward submitted the Study Circles report to the commission. She noted the “Unnatural Causes” series will begin September 3 and continue on September 24, October 8 and October 22.

The Social Services staff has been trained to field human rights complaint calls in order to provide coverage for times when Ward is out of the office for an extended period of time. The social services staff will only field questions and assist with filing complaints but will not perform investigations.

Ward and Hollis will be at the City’s Visioning Open House on September 4 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. during the Twilight Festival at the Missouri Theatre.

Ward has set up a date for an “After Election” Study Circle on race and gender issues. This circle will be on November 11.

Ward attended a meeting with the Interim Chief of Police Dressner, along with representatives from the NAACP, Hillel Center, Imani Center and other citizens to discuss how to handle alternative activities as a neo-Nazis group has requested to march again in Columbia.

**VII. Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**VIII. Commissioner Comment:** Snell said she sent two students she works with to “Any Town” over the summer. Both enjoyed their time there, learned a lot and would like to one day volunteer with other students who attend.

**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 Snell and a roll call vote was taken. Thomas called the roll with the following vote: Glasgow – Aye, Paredes – Aye, Snell – Aye, Thomas – Aye, Cole – Aye.

**X. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis, Manager  
Office of Community Services