

**Human Right Commission  
January 26, 2005 Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** David Finke, Glenn Glasgow, Randy Cole, Marie Glaze

**Members Excused:** Lawrence Morganfield III, Valeta Snell

**Members Absent:** Dee Campbell-Carter

**Staff Present:** Phil Steinhaus, Erin Cozad, Nanette C.M. Ward

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions:** Finke called the meeting to order and introductions were made.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Glaze moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and passed by a unanimous vote.
- III. **Approval of 11/17/04 Meeting Minutes:** Glasgow moved to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Glaze and passed by a unanimous vote.
- IV. **Old Business**
  - A. **Study Circles Report:** Ward reported on the November 30th Community Circle, saying that about twenty people attended. The topic was "An After the Vote Conversation." The January Community Circle is scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2005. Ward also reported the following:
    - The City Channel is running a promotional video for "Let's Talk, Columbia!"
    - The January Community Circle will be an introduction to "Let's Talk, Columbia!" as well as covering the topic "Headlines at the Heart Level."
    - A community group will host the January Community Circle. The group's name is the "Men of Mankind Project of Columbia Community."
    - Ward is coordinating a mini study circle for "Blacks in Government" (BIG) which will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2005. The study circle will focus on the topic, "What can we do to build a stronger community in an age of Diversity?"
    - Ward will also participate in a "Changing Face of Medicine" exhibition at the MU Health Services Library. A study circle discussion will be featured as part of the exhibit.
    - The annual round of "Let's Talk, Columbia!" will be held on February 26 and 27.
    - The January 2005 Volunteer Hours Report included 18 volunteers contributing 96 hours of time.
    - Planning is underway for an upcoming Hickman High School student study circle
  - B. **Columbia Values Diversity Celebration:** Finke noted that the celebration went very well. Steinhaus gave a review of the event and said it was very well attended and the program was well received. A poster contest sponsored by Columbia Transit was added to the celebration this year.

Cole said that he enjoyed the event, especially the Highsteppers. He thought it was important to note that the Highsteppers program is important because they are sharing a community tradition, not just keeping kids off the street. Glaze said she appreciated the recognition of Earl and Clara Miles for their significant contributions to our community. Glasgow said he thoroughly enjoyed the event. Steinhaus mentioned that the MU International Center also had tables for receiving donations to support people affected by the recent tsunami. Finke added that he enjoyed the choric prayer.

**V. New Business:**

- A. Neighborhood Graffiti Incident:** Finke requested Steinhaus to report. Steinhaus reported that he had talked to a local director of a social service agency who shared with him that the home of one of her board members was spray painted with racial slurs as well as a nearby family home child care provider. He added that the person whose home was vandalized prefers at this time to work with other neighborhood residents to address the issue on a neighborhood level and preferred not to give the vandals the publicity for their actions. Finke asked commissioners for feedback. The commission agreed to offer assistance in any way if requested.
- B. Nanette C.M. Ward: Recipient of the 2005 Central Missouri Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Government Employee Award:** Finke shared that Nanette C. M. Ward, the commission's Human Rights Investigator/Community Educator had been the recipient of the 2005 Central Missouri Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Government Employee Award. Finke thanked Steinhaus for nominating Ward. Finke said that the awards ceremony was wonderful and offered to share a copy of the multimedia presentation from the ceremony.
- C. Commission Terms to Expire: Finke, Campbell-Carter, and Morganfield:** Steinhaus reported the three year terms of commissioners Finke, Campbell-Carter, and Morganfield were due to expire at the end of February, 2005. Both Finke and Campbell-Carter have served two three-year terms and are not eligible to reapply for the commission at this time. Everyone was very appreciative of their work on the commission.

**VI. Staff Reports:**

- A. Community Services:** Steinhaus mentioned several news articles in commissioner folders.
- B. Law Department:** No report.
- C. Investigator/Community Educator:** Ward expressed appreciation for the 96 hours contributed by volunteers for the month of January.

- VII. Closed Session:** Glaze made a motion to go into closed session to discuss pending cases. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and a roll-call vote was taken. Finke called the roll with the following vote: Finke – yes, Glaze – yes, Glasgow – yes., Cole – yes

The commission went back into open session.

**VIII. Public Comment:** None.

**IX. Commissioner Comment:** Cole shared that he will help facilitate the annual round of "Let's Talk, Columbia!" Finke reported that the League of Women Voters is undertaking a program concerned with the defense of civil liberties. The program entitled, "Liberty Circles" is being coordinated by Barbara Allen and Elda Kurzejeski. The program will be looking at impact of USA-PATRIOT Act. Steinhaus reported that he had been invited to offer a welcome from the Human Rights Commission and the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration at a breakfast event kicking off a series of events honoring the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday at the University of Missouri.

**X. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Phil Steinhaus, Manager  
Office of Community Services