

**Human Right Commission
October 2, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Randy Cole, Marie Glaze, Glenn Glasgow, Mark Thomas, Valeta Snell

Members Excused: Noel English, Oona Paredes

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Steve Hollis, Shawna Victor, Alicia Cornish, Fred Boeckmann

Others Present: Ed Robinson, former Columbia Police Department officer; Bruce Alspaugh, Mid-Missouri LGBT Coalition

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Glasgow made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Thomas and passed unanimously.
- III. **Approval of September 4, 2007 Meeting Minutes:** Thomas made a motion to approve the September 4, 2007 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and passed unanimously.
- IV. **Old Business**

- **Citizen Review Board:** Ed Robinson, former Columbia Police Department officer, spoke with the commission about his experience in working with internal investigations with the Missouri Department of Corrections. The investigations unit Robinson works with is an impartial fact finding unit and they operate under the director. He believes that if an investigation unit is going to work properly, it has to be supported by all parties and it must be a separate unit answering only to a department director or other management official.

Robinson said Columbia is on the right path in creating a professional standards unit for internal investigation and a Citizen Review Board for other incidents. Any disciplinary action should be handled by department management but the Citizen Review Board should be able to make recommendations about possible disciplinary action.

- **Investigative process:** Hollis said staff is working on revised policies and procedures for the investigative process. A draft should be ready for review by the November commission meeting.

V. **New Business:** No new business at this time.

VI. **Staff Reports**

- A. **Community Services:** Hollis said staff is working on the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration.

The commission received nine Human Rights Enhancement funding proposals. Two applications were turned in late and incomplete. Hollis said it is up to the commission to decide if they want to accept or decline the applications. The applications are for Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School Creating a Common Ground by Sharing "The

Best Part of Me” program and Solving Student Conflicts program.

Cole moved to not accept the applications for Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School Creating a Common Ground by Sharing “The Best Part of Me” program and Solving Student Conflicts program. The motion was seconded by Thomas and passed as follows: Cole – Yes, Glasgow – Abstain, Glaze – Abstain, Thomas – Yes, Snell – Yes.

Hollis said he did more advertising and getting the word out about the Human Rights Enhancement funding proposals this year. The agency hearings will be October 23, 2007.

- B. Law Department:** No report at this time.
- C. Investigator:** No report at this time.
- D. Community Educator:** A report was mailed to the Commission with their monthly packets.

VII. Public Comment: Bruce Alspaugh spoke with the commission about the insurance requirements for non-profit groups having gatherings, such as festivals, at City parks. Alspaugh stated that the current level of insurance required is unaffordable for his group and others. He also believes there is a lack of clarity regarding the City’s policy on co-sponsoring events which appears to waive the necessity to purchase liability insurance. Boeckmann said City staff is researching this policy at this time and will report back to Council.

VIII. Commissioner Comment: Glaze said she was asked by the League of Women Voters to participate in Constitution Day. She and other members of the community each read an amendment to the constitution.

Glaze noted the Human Rights Commission received 31 votes for the Visioning process.

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. Cole called the roll with the following vote: Cole – Yes, Glasgow – Yes, Glaze – Yes, Thomas – Yes, Snell – Yes.

X. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis, Manager
Office of Community Services