

**Human Right Commission
October 25, 2006, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Marie Glaze, Glenn Glasgow, Mark Thomas, Noel English, Oona Paredes, Valeta Snell, Randy Cole

Members Excused:

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Steve Hollis, Shawna Victor

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Glasgow made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Thomas and passed unanimously.
- III. **Dinner Meeting to Discuss Human Rights Enhancement Program Proposals:** The commission discussed their thoughts of the proposals, how the programs should be funded and if funding should be given on merit of the program or if the program is existing or new.
- IV. **Organization Hearings-Human Rights Enhancement Program:** The commission held hearings with the following organizations.

Organization	Program Service	Funding Request
Parkade Elementary School	"Celebrate the Dream"	\$600.00
Columbia Faith and Education Collaborative	Seeking the Common Ground Among Religious Faiths	\$600.00
Alternatives to Violence Project	AVP Workshops	\$600.00
Services for Independent Living	PAVE	\$1,616.00
Amnesty International Hickman High School	The Human Rights Crisis in Tibet: Venerable Champe Lhumpo	\$350.00
Hickman High School Global Issues Club	Crossing Borders, Connecting People: Eastern European Peace Conference	\$1,300.00
UMC – Multicultural Center (Asian American Association)	Asian American Awareness Week	\$750.00
Jumpstart	MLK J. Cultural Diversity Fair: "Exploring Diversity:	\$1,101.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri	Mentor Enhancement Program	\$500.00
Eugene Field Elementary	Field Pride Program: Social/Cultural Competence and Parent Involvement	\$1,000.00

UMC – Center for Multicultural Research, Training and Consultation	Helen A. Neville Multicultural Lecture Series	\$800.00
Boys and Girls Club	Pictorial Tribute to MLK Jr. and other Human Rights Heroes	\$700.00

TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTS:

- A. Parkade Elementary School:** Sky Jiminez was present on behalf of this organization. Jiminez said the program began 12 years ago. A survey was done at that time and found that many children did not know that there were African-American professionals in the community. This program allows fifth grade to spend two hours with an African-American profession. The children go through six weeks of preparation for their visit learning social skills. Each child is matched with a mentor and the mentor will show the children how they use school skills, such as reading, math and science, in their everyday work. The children then give a report to their class about what they learned. There is also a luncheon for the children and their mentors. Jiminez believes this is a good program for the children and the mentors and she has seen improvements in the children over the years.

Thomas asked how many students participate in the program. Jiminez said it varies from year to year. There have been a minimum of 50 children to a maximum of 100 children. Participation is not required.

English asked why the school is not funding this program and what would happen if the commission did not fund this program. Jiminez said the program receives support from the PTA. The school district has expressed concerns for funding this program at just one school.

- B. Columbia Faith and Education Collaborative:** Otto Steinhaus, Russell Brifogle, and Eul Blank were present on behalf of this organization. Steinhaus said the program began in 2000 as collaboration with Friends of Peace Studies at the university. Their collaborative is working to develop models for dialogue between the faith and education communities in an effort to improve communication and help create a "culture of peace."

There were 47 participants from 18 faith communities at the last event. Their goal for their 2007 event is to have 100 participants. There is no group in Columbia that has representation from as many faith communities as this program.

Thomas suggested they make an effort to reach out to the Muslim community.

- C. Alternatives to Violence Project:** Joan Watson, Pat Wixom, Allen Carter and Scott Searles were present on behalf of this organization. Wixom said the program is a three day series of workshops. The program has had trouble with attendance the last few years.

Carter said they would like the program to reach further into the African-American community. They are doing outreach through the churches. He attended an AVP workshop while he was incarcerated. This program really helped him and he would this program to be used by as many people as possible.

There was discussion of having this program as an alternative in the court system and having the program work with Probation and Parole.

- D. Services for Independent Living:** Terry Juengel was present on behalf of this organization. Juengel said this program is for those with disabilities to go to community organizations and speak about their disability. There are 12 people in the group. The funding is for transportation.

Hollis said the proposal shows the in-kind and cash match as more than the total request. The commission cannot fund more than the in-kind and cash match.

The commission also noted the problems and concerns that have occurred with the agency over the last 18 months.

- E. Amnesty International Hickman High School:** George Frissell and Melissa Aslo were present on behalf of this organization. Funds are being requested to cover the cost of bringing Champe Lhumpo to Hickman High School to talk about the Human Rights Crisis in Tibet. This program has been funded in previous years by the Conrad Stawski fund which has now been depleted. Champe Lhumpo will speak with sophomore block classes, Classical Studies classes and the Amnesty International Chapter at Hickman High School. This program has reached several high school students over the years.

Thomas suggested having a fundraiser in honor of Conrad Stawski to possibly help with funding this program. He believes the fundraiser would be well attended.

- F. Hickman High School Global Issues Club:** Melissa Aslo, Jordan Maze, Juan Pelaez, Bimbola Akinbola, Kelsey Jannis, and Brad Kirkpatrick were present on behalf of this organization. Aslo said the event last year was the African Peace Conference. This was a very well attended event, approximately 250 participants, with speakers and performers. The program would be the same format for next year and the focus would be Eastern Europe. The club already has a few speakers for the program.

Thomas asked what human rights issue the program would focus on. Aslo said they would like to have discussions on village banking, how many of the countries are now bankrupt after the break up of the Soviet Union, the ethnic cleansing that is going on in Georgia. Kirkpatrick added the issue of free and impartial journalism and resources would also be included.

Thomas suggested if the countries that are in the proposal are the focal points then the name needs to be changed to the Warsaw Pact countries.

Snell asked what would happen if the commission did not give the requested funding amount. Aslo said they would do outside fundraising. They previously received funding from the soda machine profits but soda machines are no longer in the schools. She believes they would find other funding sources.

- G. UMC – Multicultural Center (Asian American Association):** Chris Fu and Annie Guo were present on behalf of this organization. Gu said the Asian American Association (AAA) was founded in 1992 to promote and raise awareness of Asian American issues. The AAA is a support network for Asian Americans in the community and also coordinates events such as the Asian American Awareness Week. During Asian American Awareness Week there is a carnival night, a Taste of Asia night, and the program tries to have a speaker, last year Sophia Choi was the speaker.

Guo said for the program next year, they would like to bring in Stir-Friday Nights, a comedy troupe that dispels myths and stereotypes about Asian Americans. The requested funding would help pay for this.

Thomas suggested they also do outreach to high school students and have a program that is friendly for all ages and to utilize PSAs in the community. Paredes suggested if they do have an all ages show then the show should be catered to that audience. Guo said the troupe has done different shows for different audiences.

Glaze asked if AAA would be charging admission. Guo said no. She noted they would like to target both Asians and non-Asians in the community. Columbia has a 4.3% Asian-American population and also a growing population of non-Asian families with adopted Asian children.

- H. Jumpstart:** Katie McMan and Chrissie Bennett were present on behalf of this organization. McMan said Jumpstart is a national literacy non-profit organization. There are eight preschools in Columbia that participate in Jumpstart. The program would be a diversity walk where the children would have a passport and have the passport stamped at each booth they visited. Each booth would be a different activity for the children to participate in to learn of different cultures, such as, dance, crafts, and language. They would also collaborate with the African Student Association, Thai Student Association, and the Hickman High School Glee Club, to name a few. The event will be held at the ARC and the funding request is to pay for the room.

Hollis said there are other City owned facilities that could be used that do not charge.

There was discussion about the program's overall budget and their relationship with the University of Missouri.

English asked what the relationship between multicultural education and human rights is. McMan said the benefit of diversity and multicultural education at an early age helps children understand the differences between people and will help be more aware of human rights issues and the differences between people when they are older.

- I. Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Missouri:** Lisa Eimers and Patty Richardson were present on behalf of this program. A brief description of the program was given by Richardson. The funding request is for a four hour workshop to train mentors, parents, educators and youth leaders, particularly those who are involved in a cross-racial mentoring relationship. The majority of the "Bigs" are white while a majority of the "Littles" are African-American. They believe the training would help both "Bigs" and "Littles" have a better understanding of each other.

There was discussion about the program's overall budget and training funds in the budget.

- J. Eugene Field Elementary:** Joel Harris was present on behalf of this program. Harris said this program is for 5th grade students to prepare them for middle school and to raise their social and cultural competence. Parents would also be involved in this program. This program will help students develop the necessary social skills to succeed at school and in the community, provide school programming that embraces a diverse population, such as the one at Field, and help parents become more involved and recognize how important they are to student success.

English asked how this is related to human rights. Harris said students should have the right to feel safe at school, respect and be respected by others, and have the right to have their family involved in learning.

Glaze asked if this would be a one time training. Harris said that is correct. The training would provide all the materials to staff. Staff could pass the materials on to others.

Thomas asked if other funding sources had been researched. Harris said not at this time.

Thomas asked what would happen if only a portion of the funding request was granted. Harris said she believes the program would function.

- K. UMC – Center for Multicultural Research, Training and Consultation:** Lisa Flores was present on behalf of this program. Flores said this program began eight years ago. Each year they have worked with Columbia Public Schools to bring in a speaker for a diversity topic. There were over 100 people who attended the presentation last year. They would like for the speaker next year to discuss social class issues.

English asked how this is related to human rights. Flores said the focus for the next speaker would be on lower socio-economic classes and to provide the opportunity to give equal chances for learning for children in the class room and also the access to resources. She said many teachers are not adequately trained on diversity.

- L. Boys and Girls Club:** Blair Campmier and Julio Lorio were present on behalf of this program. Lorio said this would be an educational tool for the children to research human rights heroes. The paintings would be displayed during cultural events around the community, in schools and at local businesses.

There was discussion about the number of students that would be involved in this project, what the input the students would have with the paintings, and the actual number of paintings that would be done.

The meeting recessed at 8:50 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:57 p.m.

- V. Commission Work Session-Preliminary Funding Recommendations:** Glaze asked if there were any programs the commission did not want to fund.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters: Glasgow suggested no funding for Big Brothers/Big Sisters. He believes they receive funding from other sources and should utilize those funds to pay for training. The commission agreed to not fund the request by Big Brothers/Big Sisters and send a letter saying the commission likes the concept but would like an initial investment to be made by the agency. The commission agreed to not fund the Big Brothers/Big Sisters request.

Boys and Girls Club: The commission likes the concept of utilizing art in promoting human rights among children but the proposal was not fully developed. The commission agreed to not fund this program and the letter will give this explanation.

Services for Independent Living: Cole suggested no funding for Services for Independent Living. He believes they should not receive funding because they should utilize the funding they receive from other sources, he does not believe City of Columbia funding should go for activities outside the city limits, and the agency's issues with turning in reports. The letter should say the commission transportation is an existing service for the agency, the funds would be used to travel outside the city limits, and the agency has been unresponsive to previous grant requirements. The commission agreed to not fund the Services for Independent Living request.

Glaze opened the floor for general discussion about funding requests.

Alternatives to Violence: Snell said this organization has a public relations problem. Thomas said he believes it will be good to have Carter as part of the organization. He believes they should receive some funding. Paredes suggested sending a letter saying the commission will need to see results or funding could be cut in the future.

Glaze suggested \$600 with the letter saying the participation needs to increase and the organization should collaborate with Probation and Parole. The commission agreed to this suggestion.

UMC Multicultural Research, Training and Consultation: Thomas said this is an academic exercise and does not believe this is an appropriate use of these funds. Glaze noted the funding has decreased over the years. Snell suggested \$200 for this program and the letter should say funding has been given by this commission since their beginning and the commission would like to see the program be self-sustaining. The commission agreed to this suggestion.

Parkade Elementary School: Glasgow suggested \$600. The commission agreed to this suggestion.

Columbia Faith and Education Collaborative: Snell suggested \$400. English said she would like for them to do as they said they would and have a larger participation than last year. Thomas suggested \$600 and the letter should say the commission would like to see more participation. The commission agreed to this suggestion.

Amnesty International Hickman High School: Cole suggested \$350 and the letter should say the commission would like to see an increase in fundraising. The commission agreed to this suggestion.

Hickman High School Global Studies Club: Cole suggested \$600. A suggestion was made to give an additional \$100 for a total of \$700 and the letter should say the commission would like to see an increase in fundraising. The commission agreed to this suggestion.

UMC – Multicultural Center (Asian American Association): Cole suggested \$700. Thomas suggested the letter should say the commission would like to see the program be age appropriate and the organization should do outreach to the high schools. The commission agreed to this suggestion.

Eugene Field Elementary: Glaze suggested funding the training portion of the request, \$650, and giving a small amount, \$50, for supplies. The letter would state the funding was for those two purposes. The commission agreed to this suggestion.

Jumpstart: A suggestion was made to give funding for crafts, \$400, and the letter would state the funding would be used for crafts and not their initial request to pay for the facility for their program. The commission agreed to this suggestion.

VI. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis, Manager
Office of Community Services