

**Human Right Commission
February 6, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

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

Members Excused:

Members Absent:

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

I. **Call to Order/Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Glaze.

II. **Approval of Agenda:** Glasgow made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Paredes and passed unanimously.

III. **Approval of January 2, 2007 Meeting Minutes:** Thomas made a motion to approve the November 7, 2006 minutes. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and passed unanimously.

IV. **Old Business**

A. **Discussion of incident at Columbia Mall in 2/06 and subsequent inquiry:** Ward said a consultant has been hired by the Columbia Police Department to conduct a study on the need for a citizen review board.

Thomas asked if there had been any follow-up on the report done by the University about the lack of communication at the Columbia Police Department. No one had heard of any follow-up.

B. **Discussion of current relations with Islamic community:** Thomas asked if there had been further communication with Mr. Hamoodi. Glaze said it is her opinion that the discussion is over.

Paredes said she spoke with Hamoodi recently and he informed her that nothing has changed. Hamoodi told her that he would appreciate no action be taken at this time by the commission but maybe at a later date. Paredes said she did try have Hamoodi come to the meeting to speak with the commission so they could hear him speak, not just receive information second-hand.

Thomas said that he is still receiving calls about this issue. He has told the callers that the issue is not being pursued per Hamoodi's request and they have respected that decision.

V. **New Business:** English said she found a 10 year old race relations study done by the City. She asked if this is something the commission needs to look into at this time or if any action was taken from this report. Glaze said she remembered when this study was done. One item that did come from this is the study circles program.

Glaze requested the Human Rights Enhancement Program funding process be a discussion item on the March agenda.

VI. **Staff Reports**

- A. **Community Services:** No report at this time.
- B. **Law Department:** No report at this time.
- C. **Investigator/Community Educator:** Ward said she has been discussions between Bill Whitcomb at the U.S. Department of Justice, Police Chief Randy Boehm and herself about training on racial profiling. Whitcomb would like to have more training for the police department and would like to utilize the study circles as a tool in training. Chief Boehm believes this would be a good setting. This setting could be used for officers and citizens. Chief Boehm would also like to have a few officers as trained facilitators so they could be included in facilitating a study circle.

“Let’s Talk, Columbia! 2007” will be on February 24 and 25. Ward said if anyone is interested to sign up soon because space is limited.

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

VIII. **Commissioner Comment:** Snell said she and Glaze attended a speaking program in St. Louis by Rev. Kyle, that last surviving person who was on the balcony in Memphis when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot and killed. Rev. Kyle geared the speech toward the children in attendance and about how they are the ones who can make a difference.

IX. **Closed Session to Discuss Pending Cases Pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo.:** English made a motion to move to closed session to discuss pending cases pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and a roll call vote was taken. Cole called the roll with the following vote: Paredes – Yes, Thomas – Yes, Glasgow – Yes, Cole – Yes, Glaze – Yes, Snell – Yes, English – Yes.

X. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis, Manager
Office of Community Services