

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

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

Members Excused:

Members Absent: Valeta Snell

Staff Present: Steve Hollis, Fred Boeckmann, 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 Thomas and passed unanimously.
- III. **Approval of February 6, 2007 Meeting Minutes:** Glasgow made a motion to approve the February 6, 2007 minutes. The motion was seconded by Thomas and passed unanimously.
- IV. **Old Business**
 - A. **Discussion of incident at Columbia Mall in 2/06 and subsequent inquiry:** No further discussion about this matter.
 - B. **Discussion of current relations with Islamic community:** No further discussion about this matter.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **Human Rights Enhancement funding policy:** English expressed concerned that the funding was not targeted at specific issues identified by the commission as priorities. There was a discussion about the pros and cons of limiting funding to certain areas of need. One option presented would be to issue a general RFP but state that the commission is particularly interested in a certain area of emphasis. This discussion was tabled until the June 2007 commission meeting.

Commission then discussed the need for increased Human Rights Enhancement funding. Thomas stated that less than 50% of the funding requested for FY2007 was funded due to funding limitations. Hollis and Boeckmann explained the budget process and supplemental requests. Hollis agreed to calculate exact figure of unfunded requests and report at next commission meeting. Commission tabled this discussion until the April commission meeting.
- VI. **Staff Reports**
 - A. **Community Services:** Hollis reported that the March Community Circle topic will be "Not in Our Town" and would be held on Monday, March 12. This topic and date was chosen in part as a response to the neo-Nazi march to take place on 3/9/07. Hollis also stated that staff was interested in purchasing "Not in Our Town" buttons to be worn by community members the day of the march. The commission approved the purchase of up to \$200 for use in purchasing the buttons. Hollis asked that commissioners join him at the alternative event Saturday in order to distribute buttons and fliers about the Community Circle.
 - B. **Law Department:** No report.
 - C. **Investigator:** No report.
 - D. **Community Educator :** No report.

- VII. **Public Comment:** Khesha Duncan and James Robnette, representing the Frederick Douglass Coalition and Concerned Citizens of Boone County, spoke about their initiative which seeks the implementation of a citizen review board to oversee complaints lodged against the Columbia Police Department. The speakers distributed packets to the commissioners containing information about their effort.
- VIII. **Commissioner Comment:** Glaze stated that she was concerned that OCS staff and the Human Rights Commission were not notified by City management of the permitted neo-Nazi march nor of subsequent meetings about the City's response.
- IX. **Closed Session to Discuss Pending Cases Pursuant to Section 610.021 (1)**
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 Paredes 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, English – Yes.
- X. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis, Manager
Office of Community Services