

**Human Right Commission  
May 1, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

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

**Members Excused:**

**Members Absent:**

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

**Others Present:** Khesha Duncan, Concerned Citizens of Boone County

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Glaze requested Election of Officers be added to New Business. There was no objection to this request. English made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Paredes and passed unanimously.
- III. **Approval of April 3, 2007 Meeting Minutes:** Thomas moved to approve the April 3, 2007 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and passed unanimously.
- IV. **Old Business**
  - **Citizen Review Board:** Thomas said he received a phone call from Keshha Duncan of the Concerned Citizens of Boone County who provided him with an update in regard to their work in promoting the creation of a Citizen Review Board (CRB). They will be having a meeting on May 9 with the City Manager about the CRB. He believes this commission should stay on top of this issue and also be involved. He believes the commission should work with Concerned Citizens of Boone County toward creating a CRB. Thomas stated that Concerned Citizens of Boone County will emerge as a reputable citizen group has done its research on CRBs in the state and in other communities similar to Columbia demographically.

English asked if the City is doing anything about the consultant's recommendations. Boeckmann said the consultant was specifically asked not to address CRB.

Thomas said if a CRB is established then he would like to have the commission to have a role on the board.

Glaze noted she knows there was a meeting between Bill Whitcomb of the U.S. Department of Justice, members of the Columbia Police Department, NAACP, Concerned Citizens of Boone County, Frederick Douglas Coalition and other organizations to discuss the possible CRB.

Glaze said she does not believe this commission should join forces with outside groups but the commission could have representatives at their meetings if that is what the commission chooses to do.

Boeckmann said if a CRB is set up, then the City Council will determine how the board will be set up and function.

Glaze suggested sending a memo to Council outlining their support for establishing a

CRB. Boeckmann said the commission could also include a request to have a role on the possible CRB.

Glasgow made a motion to authorize the Human Rights Commission to send a letter to City Council outlining their support for the formation of a Citizen Review Board. The motion was seconded by Thomas and passed unanimously.

Duncan gave an update on Concerned Citizens of Boone County's recent meetings and the developments in the formation of a possible CRB.

## V. **New Business**

- **Investigative process:** Thomas said he would like the commission to review the structure of record keeping and investigations done by staff regarding possible human rights violations. Many of the procedures the commission follows date back to when the commission had authority to make decisions on these cases. He would like for staff to continue to be an advocate but believes some of the procedures are necessary.

English said she believes staff should continue with record keeping but does not believe a report needs to be given every month when there is no new information.

Boeckmann gave a brief history of how the commission's authority was determined and how the current policies and procedures were amended after the Yellow Freight case. He noted the commission does cover sexual orientation, which the state does not.

Hollis said one goal is to develop a computer system to better document cases as he sees what staff does more in the line of case management. He does not foresee a reduction in the type or amount of information collected and reported but rather a change in the formality of the investigative process. Specifically, Hollis stated that he is concerned that staff must wait until the monthly commission meetings for permission to proceed with what have evolved to be very standard procedures and actions. He noted that in most City departments Council and/or commissions allow staff to operate under approved guidelines and procedures. Hollis did state that certain actions such as closing cases should still be determined by the commission. There was discussion of streamlining the procedures to have the best use of staff time and the commission's time.

Hollis said staff will draft a proposal to be reviewed at the June commission meeting. The commission agreed to this suggestion.

- **Election of Officers**
  - *Chair:* Glaze said she would volunteer and continue as chair. There was no objection to this and there were no other nominations. Glaze will continue as the Human Rights Commission chair.
  - *Vice-Chair:* Snell said she would volunteer and continue as vice-chair. There was no objection to this and there were no other nominations. Snell will continue as the Human Rights Commission vice-chair.
  - *Secretary:* Cole said he would volunteer and continue as secretary. There was no objection to this and there were no other nominations. Cole will continue as the Human Rights Commission secretary.

Thomas made a motion to approve the following officer positions: Glaze as chair, Snell as vice-chair and Cole as secretary. The motion was seconded by English and passed unanimously.

VI. **Staff Reports**

- A. **Community Services:** Hollis said he has submitted the commission's supplemental request for additional Human Rights Enhancement Funding.

Hollis will be on paternity leave May 11 through June 7.

- B. **Law Department:** No report at this time.

- C. **Investigator:** Cornish said she tried to contact a woman who called last month regarding a possible incident between the Columbia Police Department and her son but was unsuccessful.

Cornish noted the Commission may receive a case based on sexual orientation.

- D. **Community Educator:** Hollis said the April Community Circle covered the media coverage of the Nazi march last month, how the police handled the situation and why the march was allowed. It was a well attended circle.

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

- VIII. **Commissioner Comment:** There were no Commissioner comments.

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

- X. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis, Manager  
Office of Community Services