

**Human Right Commission
June 23, 2004 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: David Finke, Marie Glaze, Valeta Snell, Lawrence Morganfield III, Glenn Glasgow

Members Excused: Dee Campbell-Carter

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Phil Steinhaus, Fred Boeckmann, Nanette C.M. Ward, Caroline LaVallee

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions:** Finke called the meeting to order.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Glaze moved to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and passed by a unanimous vote.
- III. **Approval of 5/26/04 Meeting Minutes:** Finke offered the following amendments to the minutes: he asked that a copy of the report to the City Council on the "USA-PATRIOT" Act be attached to the minutes and that the vote to administratively close Case #E-03/04-RP be recorded in the minutes. Morganfield moved to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and passed by a unanimous vote.

IV. Old Business

- A. **Study Circles Report:** Ward reported that the monthly Community Circle will be held next Wednesday, June 30 at the library. The topic is "Teen Speak" and it involves high school students who participated in the Hickman Study Circles and other teens. She plans to have a "listen in" circle. Tyree Byndom will help facilitate. Time will be set aside for additional dialogue circles of all participants. Future Community Circles are scheduled on July 21 and Aug. 26.

Ward added that transportation assistance will be provided on request by means of taxi vouchers.

Ward pointed out the article in the *Columbia Daily Tribune* regarding the use of the study circle program for diversity training at State Farm Insurance Companies. She noted that the total number that have participated or are interested in the program is large even though the article states that attendance at the "annual rounds" has decreased. Snell added that the impact of the program has a "ripple effect" in our community as two students from Hickman High School will be attending the "Any Town" program as a result of their work with Mark Janda.

Ward added that a graduate student who is working across the state conducting polling training shared with her that he greatly benefited from his participation.

Ward also shared that she and others had participated in a program at the University of Missouri with a delegation from Thailand. Study Circle participants Plummer and Imam also attended and said it was a good experience.

Steinhaus reported that the Study Circle report to the City Council was sent directly to them but was not included on their meeting agenda.

- B. FY2005 Budget Update:** Steinhaus reported that his budget meeting with the City Manager went well and that he believes that the commission's FY2005 budget will be approved.
- C. International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) Conference:** Finke said that he cannot attend due to a previously scheduled engagement. Glasgow moved to authorize sending Campbell-Carter if she can attend. Second by Snell. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

V. New Business

- A. Roots of Racism III Conference: August 11 – 13, 2004:** Morganfield, Campbell-Carter, and Finke will attend. Glaze made a motion to approve funds for any commissioners who wish to attend. Morganfield seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- B. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. International Day of Service: HIV/AIDS – Final Report:** Steinhaus passed around copies of the final report that was submitted.

VI. Staff Reports

- A. Community Services:** Steinhaus said that there is nothing new to report on fair housing report section of the consolidated plan. Finke asked Steinhaus to keep track of the report and notify the commission when it is presented to the City Council.

Steinhaus reported that Caroline LaVallee has been hired as a new Assistant Investigator to work with Ward and Jasmine Cline.

Steinhaus handed out membership information on the Regional Executive Council on Civil Rights. Glaze made a motion to approved funds for membership dues. The motion was seconded by Snell. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

- B. Law Department:** No report. Finke thanked Boeckmann for assistance with the Hooker vs. MFA case and his encouragement for workplace diversity training.
- C. Investigator/Community Educator:** Steinhaus suggested that staff would create notebooks for each commission member to help them keep complaint information better organized than mailing out large updates each month. In the future only updates to the on-going report will be mailed to the commission. The commission agreed that this would be a good system to keep track of the complaint information.

LaVallee was introduced as a new Assistant Investigator.

VII. Closed Session: Glasgow moved to go into closed session to discuss pending cases. Motion was seconded by Morganfield and a roll-call vote was taken. Snell called the roll with the following vote: Glasgow-yes; Glaze, yes; Finke-yes; Snell-yes; Morganfield-yes.

Glaze made a motion to go out of closed session. The motion was seconded by Morganfield and passed by a unanimous vote.

IX. Public Comment: None.

X. Commissioner Comment: Glasgow brought up the issue of transportation in fair housing report. He noted that it seems there are gaps in the transportation system, particularly in helping First Ward residents getting to jobs. Boeckmann noted that addressing transportation issues as they relate to employment is not really one of the commission's functions. He added that the City Council is looking into the issue. Steinhaus shared that the Community Partnership is also working on addressing the issue. Finke asked that the minutes reflect the commission's concerns about the issue.

Snell suggested sending a thank you note to Blum. Finke will do this. Steinhaus noted that he had sent a letter as well.

Glaze reported that at a recent NAACP meeting to discuss relations between the Columbia Police Department and African-American citizens, the members of the NAACP Executive Committee excluded press from the meeting at the request of the Chief of Police. The meeting was originally a meeting of the NAACP Executive Committee and Chief Boehm and Captain McCrary to discuss these issues and was not intended to be a public forum. Glaze shared that she felt that Chief Boehm and Captain McCrary do not have a good understanding of the extent of the problem and fail to recognize that racism exists in the Columbia Police Department, particularly as it relates to how some officers treat African-American citizens in our community. She is concerned about the behavior of officers when making traffic stops as they are not always respectful toward African-Americans.

Finke noted the article in the *Columbia Missourian* that was in commissioner folders about race issues in the First Ward.

XI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Steinhaus, Manager
Office of Community Services