

**Human Right Commission
July 27, 2005 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Glenn Glasgow, Marie Glaze, Noel English, Lawrence Morganfield III

Members Excused: Mark Thomas, Randy Cole, Valeta Snell

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Phil Steinhaus, Nanette Ward, Fred Boeckmann

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions:** Glaze called the meeting to order and introductions were made.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Glasgow moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Morganfield and passed by a unanimous vote.
- III. **Approval of 6/252/05 Meeting Minutes:** English moved to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and passed by a unanimous vote.
- IV. **Old Business:**

- A. **Community Study Circles Program Report:** Ward reported that she had held three four-hour training sessions for the Human Development Corporation on June 24, July 11 and July 20. There were 4 facilitators for the first two sessions and 3 facilitators for the last session. This training reached 70 people. The Study Circle model was used as was the video "Brown Eyes/Blue Eyes".

The June Community Circle topic was a second annual "Teen Speak" dialogue session and was attended by 50 people, 18 of them being teens. The July Community Circle topic was, "Facilitation – Talking Made Easy" and was attended by 15 – 17 people.

The August 30 Circle topic will be, "Race: the Power of an Illusion" and the September 26 topic will be, "Diversity and Spiritual Covenants".

Ward reported that on May 31st she and Iman Labadia were guests on a KOPN Radio Show. Other volunteers involved in the radio show were Tyree Byndom, Amy Damoshek, David Wong, and Mark Stannard.

Ward also reported that two "Diversity Training" Study Circles are planned as a lead-in to the Israeli/Palestinian Film event later this fall. These circles will involve equal numbers of women and men who are Christian, Muslim and Jewish. She said that volunteer facilitators and participants are still being recruited for this program. The study circles will be held at the Cherry Street Artisan in September and October. The study circles' topic will have a focus related to "Descendants of Abraham". There will be two circles of men and two circles of women for each of the sessions.

Ward shared that Rock Bridge High School student study circles didn't happen this summer. She has been working with a staff person from Rock Bridge High School and their intent is to organize student study circles for this fall.

Ward reported that Paul Sturtz, one of the coordinators of the True/False Film Festival which occurred in February 2005, wants to have some coordination between the February 2006 film festival and the annual round of "Let's Talk, Columbia!" which is also scheduled for February 2006.

Ward shared that she has two new volunteers who are service learning students and are very enthusiastic about working with the program this fall. One student wants to help collect stories of impact of study circles experiences. The other student wants to involve black and white students together in service projects. Vicky Riback Wilson proposed Study Circles as being part of the opportunity to bring these two groups together on campus.

V. New Business:

A. FY2006 Human Rights Enhancement Program: Steinhaus reviewed the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the FY2006 Human Rights Enhancement Program (HREP) and noted that he had made a few minor revisions to the form from last year that will hopefully clarify the RFP for applicants. He also reported that the RFP was completely reformatted to make it easier for applicants to complete electronically. He said that budget spread sheets are also available in Excel format and both the proposal form and the budget spreadsheets can be downloaded or printed from the commission's web site. The web site for the program has been completely updated as well. Publicity about the program will begin in August and an information session will be held on September 7, 2005.

Steinhaus revisited the idea of changing HREP funding to a quarterly allocation basis which would allow the commission to receive proposals throughout the year. The commission decided to discuss this option during the next fiscal year.

B. Roots of Racism IV Workshop: Steinhaus reported that Ward and Glasgow will attend. Morganfield said that he attended last year and that it was excellent.

VI. Staff Reports:

A. Community Services: Steinhaus pointed out a newspaper article about the Community Circle "Teen Speak" program and announced that Cozad is on vacation with her family.

B. Law Department: No report.

C. Investigator/Community Educator: Ward announced that FedEx had approached her about a Diversity Training Study Circles model for their company, similar to what State Farm Insurance has done. She said they are still interested in developing the program. They donated \$50 to the last Community Circle and helped with the refreshments.

Ward said she wanted to share that a whole family attended “Teen Speak” Community Circle. They had a 9 year old girl and a very mature boy who was going into 9th grade. It was very interesting to hear the different experiences of a whole family.

- VII. Closed Session:** Glasgow made a motion to go into closed session to discuss pending cases. The motion was seconded by Morganfield and a roll-call vote was taken. Steinhaus called the roll with the following vote: Glaze – yes; Glasgow – yes, English – yes, Morganfield – yes.

English made a motion to go back into open session. The motion was seconded by Glasgow. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

- VIII. Public Comment:** None.

- IX. Commissioner Comment:** Boeckmann suggested moving the closed session to the end of the agenda. The commission agreed that this was a good idea.

- X. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Steinhaus, Manager
Office of Community Services