

**Human Right Commission  
September 4, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

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

**Members Excused:**

**Members Absent:**

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

**Others Present:**

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Thomas made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and passed unanimously.
- III. **Approval of June 5, 2007 Meeting Minutes:** Glasgow made a motion to approve the June 5, 2007 minutes. The motion was seconded by Thomas and passed unanimously.
- IV. **Old Business**
  - **Citizen Review Board:** Glaze said at the August study circle, she spoke with Ed Robinson. Mr. Robinson currently works for the State but is a former Columbia police officer. She believes he would be a good resource for the Citizen Review Board and would like for Mr. Robinson to come speak with this commission. There was no objection to the request. Glaze said she will invite Mr. Robinson to the October meeting.

Thomas said he had drafted a letter to the mayor regarding the formation of a Citizen Review Board. He believes this letter is now moot as there is an application process and deadline for forming a Citizen Review Board task force.
  - **Investigative process:** Cornish said staff proposed changes at the June meeting. The changes would include the commission not receiving the monthly written updates for cases. They would still receive the complaint, response and disposition.

Hollis noted another proposed change was to automatically suspend cases when they are dually filed with the state. Glaze said she believes there should be something on record regarding cases being suspended.

Paredes said she had no objection to receiving less paperwork.

English asked if there would be a different process for sexual orientation cases. Hollis said he does not believe the paperwork issue is tied to the type of case.

Glasgow made a motion to accept staff's recommendation and discontinue mailing the monthly case logs. The motion was seconded by Paredes and passed unanimously.

V. **New Business**

- **Human Rights Enhancement Program:** Hollis said the 2008 HREP RFP has been issued. The website has been updated and is now similar to the format of the Social Services funding portion of the website. Staff has received positive feedback about the website and has received several inquiries about the HREP from a variety of organizations. There will be an information session September 5 at 3:30 p.m. The proposals are due September 28. The commission will have their work session on October 23 with a public hearing on November 6.

VI. **Staff Reports**

- A. **Community Services:** The first Columbia Values Diversity Celebration Planning Committee will have their first meeting on September 6.

Hollis noted Bruce Alspaugh was scheduled to attend this meeting but had to cancel. Mr. Alspaugh wanted to discuss with the commission the possibility of the HRC sponsoring Pridefest as a means to waive the liability insurance required by Parks and Rec for organizations when they use City facilities, such as park, for an event. Hollis stated that this question has been forwarded to the Legal Dept. as it has consequences beyond the HRC. Mr. Alspaugh will be at the October meeting.

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

- C. **Investigator:** No report at this time.

- D. **Community Educator:** Ward gave the following report - Continued "NOT IN OUR TOWN" documentary and dialogue series with showing at Douglass High School on August 22, Monthly Community Circle, July 30, Monthly Community Circle, August 30, Media promotional activities for both "NOT IN OUR TOWN" and monthly Community Circles, diversity training required for Wal-Mart Team Leaders, Registered to attend the Joint Conference of NAHRW and IAOhra in Atlanta, GA, Sept. 16-20, Community Circle on Sept. 26, 2007. Ward noted the Unity Center will not be available for the "Let's Talk, Columbia!" event in February 2008, and Columbia Public Schools wants to start the study circles program back up in the schools.

There was discussion about creating a policy for donations to be made to the study circles program.

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

- VIII. **Commissioner Comment:** Thomas thanked Cornish and Ward for their work he learned about during the August study circle.

- IX. **Closed Session to Discuss Pending Cases Pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo.:** Thomas made a motion to move to closed session to discuss pending cases pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo. The motion was seconded by Snell 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 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis, Manager  
Office of Community Services