

**Human Rights Commission
June 1, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Mary Bixby, Scott Dean, Jessica Macy, Thomas O'Toole, Negar Rezvani, and Marissa Todd

Members Excused: Mark Thomas

Staff Present: Steve Hollis, Marie Glaze, Fred Boeckmann, Stephanie A. Ingram

Others Present: none

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Macy.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Macy moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Bixby and passed unanimously.
- III. **Approval of May 4, 2010 meeting minutes:** Bixby made a motion to approve the May 4, 2010 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Rezvani and passed unanimously.
- IV. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Revision of the Human Rights Enhancement Program Funding RFP:** Hollis stated that a contract was entered into with CTK jointly with the United Way for a web-based grants management system. He is working on revising the RFP and integrating it into the new CTK ODM online grants management system. Hollis said this will make the application process simpler. Boeckmann reviewed the council bill submitted by Hollis which the Human Rights ordinance to better the proposed revised HREP process. Boeckmann said under the new language, contract recommendations could be signed directly by the City Manager without sending them through the city council. Hollis said that this was a critical piece of the redesign as it will expedite the application process. The commission discussed options on how to simplify the form, and agreed on a program budget. Hollis said the other issue was deciding on a deadline for agencies to submit the grant applications on-line. Dean was concerned that the software would cause barriers for individuals or groups. Hollis said he was aware of this potential issue but shared that they have been using electronic forms made available on the web for a number of year without issue so he did not anticipate any issues with the ODM. Hollis said he would provide any support needed to agencies in need of help.
 - b. **Refugee Issues:** Hollis handed out information on Immigration Outreach and Counseling Services. Carrie L. Tyler provides specialized professional immigration presentations, informational sessions, and immigration consulting. Rezvani said that an immigration summit is scheduled for the near future. Rezvani will be checking on scheduling a presentation from the HRC at the summit.

V. **New Business:** There was no new business.

VI. **Staff Reports:**

- a. **Manager of Human Services:** No Report
- b. **Law Department:** No Report
- c. **Human Rights Specialist:** Glaze submitted the following written report:

Staff participated in a forum "Race and Diversity in Mid-Missouri" sponsored by KBIA on Monday, May 10th. The forum was part of "Intersection" a regular program on KBIA for the past several months usually broadcast on Mondays at noon. This forum allowed for interaction with a live audience and viewers watching a simulcast. Apologies to the commission for the misinformation regarding the chairmanship of the commission reported in the enclosed Tribune article.

Thursday morning, May 13th staff attended the Partners in Education Breakfast hosted by the Columbia Public Schools. This event marked the 26th year of Partners in Education. Thursday afternoon staff attended the MSAN (Minority Student Achievement Network) meeting at CPS. The discussion centered on many of the same efforts we are currently working on with regard to cultural competence. In fact Peter Stiepleman reported meeting with some of the folks we met with last month. The evening of May 13th Staff was the guest speaker at the Board of Health meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to share with the Board some of the work of the Human Rights Commission and staff regarding human rights.

On Sunday evening, May 16th staff attended the Blind Boone House dedication and play. The Blind Boone House is the former home of a famous black musician who lived in Columbia during the early 20th century, J.W. "Blind" Boone.

Tuesday, May 25th attended a film called, "Ten rules on dealing with the Police". The film talked about what should happen when you have an encounter with law enforcement. Chief Burton wants the film to be used by his officers. Chief Burton agreed to show the film in the community and have panel discussions afterwards.

Staff continues to work with MASW on the upcoming David Harris trip which has now been re-scheduled to Wednesday, July 21st at the Boone County Government Center Building.

In early May, Glaze was contacted by Mary Harrison from the City of St. Charles, Missouri. Glaze said the City of St. Charles is in the process of organizing a human relations commission. Glaze spoke to Harrison about the processes and how The Human Rights Commission successfully operates.

VII. Commission Reports

Citizens Police Review Board: Bixby said the Board recently heard comments from members of the public expressing their concerns regarding the police department's use of the SWAT team in executing a search warrant where one dog was killed and another injured. Bixby said the Chief of Police responded by rewriting the SWAT regulations.

The City of Columbia Police Department presented information to the Citizens Police Review Board and members of the public on the use of tasers.

VIII. Public Comment: No Public Comment

IX. Commissioner Comments: No comment

X. Closed Session to Discuss Pending Cases Pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo.:
Rezvani made a motion to move to closed session to discuss pending cases pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo. The motion was seconded by Macy and a roll call vote was taken. Rezvani called the roll with the following vote: Rezvani-Aye, Macy – Aye, Dean – Aye, Todd – Aye, Bixby – Aye, O’Toole – Aye.

XI. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis, Manager of Human Services