

**Human Rights Commission  
July 6, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Scott Dean, Jessica Macy, Thomas O'Toole, Negar Rezvani, Mark Thomas

**Members Excused:** Mary Bixby, Marissa Todd

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

**Others Present:** Aimee Wehmeier & Lindsay Pike

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Thomas.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** O'Toole moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dean and passed unanimously.
- III. **Approval of June 1, 2010 meeting minutes:** Macy made a motion to approve the June 1, 2010 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by O'Toole and passed unanimously.
- IV. **Old Business:**

**Revision of the Human Rights Enhancement Program Funding RFP:**

Hollis said that the city council approved the changes to the Human Rights ordinance which allows the City Manager to approve contracts

Hollis passed out a revised draft policy and indicated that he would just go over the items that were changed from the original draft. Hollis indicated that he added as much detail as possible to the policy as he feels it is better to put everything possible in policy. Starting with Item 5, added: Applicants must be ADA compliant. Facilities, services and employment practices must be Title II compliant. Page 2, Item 8: Under submission of proposal changed to say forms are available on City web site. This is a temporary change. Initially said to use CTK, ODM but that system is not ready at this time. At the bottom Hollis added proposal submission requirements. He also listed all documents needed to be included with proposal.

Hollis stated the policy states that proposals submitted before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month will be considered at the following monthly commission meeting. From there, it will essentially be a four to five week turnaround. This should make the funding more readily available to organizations. Thomas asked if staff is comfortable with that time table. Hollis said he was.

Hollis indicated that the tricky part of the policy and process is the timing of the availability of the funds. The City's fiscal year begins October 1 but the books close in September. Hollis stated he wrote the policy to say that proposal submitted on or before August 15 would be considered in the current fiscal year and proposal submitted after August 15 would be considered for the following fiscal year.

Hollis said that once he converts the RFP process to the ODM proposals will not have to be copied and mailed. Hollis will simply notify the commission a proposal is ready to be reviewed on the ODM. Thomas asked what ODM is. Hollis said this was discussed at the prior meeting and explained that it stands for Online Data Manager which is a web based grant management system which will be used for social services funding and will also be available for the HREP.

Macy inquired about e-verify. Hollis stated the dollars involved were too small to require e-verify verification.

Thomas expressed his appreciation for the added flexibility to the funding process.

Rezvani made a motion to approve the revised Human Rights Enhancement Policy and RFP format. The motion was seconded by Macy and passed unanimously.

## V. **New Business:**

**Consideration of HREP proposal from Services for Independent Living:** Wehmeier with Services for Independent Living (SIL) has submitted an HREP proposal for FY2010 funding. Wehmeier spoke about a number of Disability Pride events. This is a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act. Wehmeier said that the funding requested for this event will provide two, 1.5 hour educational presentations. This will include providing participants with a bag lunch and educational materials. The first presentation will be a panel discussion entitled "ADA Past and Present" which will look at the impact of the ADA to date and into the future. The second panel discussion will be "ADA in the Workplace." Wehmeier stated the reason for this topic is that most people with disabilities are unemployed or underemployed. All the events are free and open to the public.

After brief discussion the commission unanimously approved funding for the Services for Independent Living's proposal in the amount of \$500.00.

**Discussion regarding modification of 2010 HRC calendar to include an August meeting:** Hollis suggested the commission consider adding an August meeting to the 2010 calendar so that additional HREP proposals could be considered in order that 2010 HREP funding is fully allocated. Macy made a motion to have an August meeting. The motion was seconded by Rezvani and passed unanimously. Thomas made a motion to amend the Human Rights Commission calendar to include an August meeting. The motion was seconded by Dean and passed unanimously.

## VI. **Staff Reports:**

a. **Manager of Human Services:** Hollis is working on the ODM grants management system. Macy said the system is very easy and makes the application process easier.

b. **Law Department:** No report.

c. **Human Rights Specialist:** Glaze submitted the following written report:  
*Staff attended a meeting on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> with members of the Downtown Columbia Leadership Council and staff from H3 Studio, a St. Louis based firm brought in to help redevelop the Broadway-Providence Road intersection and the North Village arts district.*

*The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Pride Fest was held on Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Mid-Missouri Pride Fest is an annual celebration joining the gay community and straight friends to promote LGBT visibility, unity and progress toward full equal civil rights through a family-friendly, fun and diverse event. The venue was changed this year to downtown Columbia and despite the heat attracted a sizeable crowd. Staff shared a booth with other staffers from the Department of Public Health and Human Services in addition to RAIN staff. Staff used this event to distribute the Fair Housing Facts and Employment Facts brochures.*

Glaze reported that she attended the screening of 10 Rules for Dealing with Police last Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. Glaze stated Chief Burton does an excellent job of facilitating viewing the film. There was to be a panel discussion but the size of the crowd prohibited that format so the individuals designated to be on the panel (Dan Viets, Mary Ratliff and Dr. Rashed Nizam) made comments and then it became a group discussion. There was a high level of interest and people stayed to interact with each other. Commission Chair Mark Thomas was

also in attendance and made comments about the Citizens Police Review Board which no one else had mentioned. Glaze shared that in today's Human Rights Updates there was information about new HUD Guidance on LGBT Housing Discrimination Complaints. Lastly, David Harris will actually be coming to town on July 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm The meeting will be in the County Commission Chambers.

**VII. Commission Reports:**

**Citizens Police Review Board:** No Report

**VIII. Public Comment:** No Public Comment

**IX. Commissioner Comments:** Thomas encouraged the other commissioners to meet Chief Burton and described him as an incredible breath of fresh air.

**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: Dean – Aye, O'Toole – Aye, Thomas – Aye, Macy – Aye, and Rezvani – Aye.

**XI. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis,

Manager of Human Services