

**Human Rights Commission
December 7, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Scott Dean, Jessica Macy, Negar Rezvani, Justin Routt, Mark Thomas,

Members Excused: Thomas O'Toole, Marissa Todd

Staff Present: Fred Boeckmann, Steve Hollis, Kari Utterback

Others Present:

I. **Call to Order/Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Thomas.

II. **Approval of Agenda:** Rezvani moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dean and passed unanimously.

III. **Approval of October 5, 2010 meeting minutes:** Macy made a motion to approve the November 2, 2010 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Rezvani and passed unanimously.

IV. **Old Business:**

a. **Follow up from Senator Schaefer re: Missouri Non-discrimination Act (MONA)**

Thomas asked if the Division of Human Services had received anything in response to his letter. Hollis stated the office hadn't received anything, but that someone should follow up with the Senator. Thomas stated he would follow up with the Senators office.

V. **New Business:**

a. **Consideration of HREP proposal from State Historical Society of Missouri:** Ms. Chris Montgomery from the State Historical Society of Missouri provided a synopsis of the James T. Scott lynching in 1923. She said that it had become apparent that there were still a lot of sentiments in the community still lingering about the incident. She said that is what had sparked interest in the oral history project. She said they want to do an interview with five people and combine the interviews into a electronic format. She said several radio stations have already expressed interest in broadcasting the oral history. Hollis stated the unit of service for this project would be "one oral history project." He said the proposal was very well written. Thomas asked about the people being interviewed and asked if they had done any programs at local assisted living homes. Montgomery said that they have put feelers out in the community and there were people alive who had witnessed the lynching, but some of them were not willing to talk about it. She said that the age of the eye witnesses was a factor because a lot of these older citizens had problems with dementia and/or memory loss. Macy stated that she worked at the Boone County Council on Aging and offered to put feelers out as well throughout her volunteers or do whatever she could to help. Montgomery said that they were also looking for people who had been affected by this incident but were not present at the time as they are looking for ripples in the community. She said the Historical Society was trying to contact the Scott family, but they have been difficult to locate as they moved to Chicago after the incident. She said they were also trying to track down Reverend Castin's family. He was the pastor of Second Baptist Church at the time of the lynching and had actively tried to stop the lynching.

Macy made a motion to fund the James Scott Oral History Project in the amount of \$500.00. The motion was seconded by Routt and passed unanimously.

VI. **Staff Reports:**

a. **Manager of Human Services:** Hollis stated that he is working on the Diversity Celebration. There was only one discrimination complaint open which they would discuss during the

closed session. He said Marie is at home and accepting visitors if any of the commissioners were interested in seeing her. Thomas asked if there was a deadline for the MLK Jr. Calendar that is passed out at the Diversity Celebration. Hollis stated that January 7th would be the deadline for events to be on the calendar.

b. Law Department: No report.

VII. Commission Reports

Citizens Police Review Board: Dean reported that the Police Review Board had made a decision that the officer Nathan Turner had used the excessive force, but that Chief Ken Burton had disagreed with their findings. He said it would probably be appealed and sent to the City Manager. He said that was their only case open. He said he watched the '10 Things to Know when Dealing with the Police' DVD and recommended the commissioners watch it.

VIII. Public Comment: No Public Comment.

IX. Commissioner Comments: None.

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, Thomas – Aye, Macy – Aye, and Rezvani – Aye, Routt – Aye.

XI. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:41p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis,

Manager of Human Services