



COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Commission on Human Rights

April 28, 2008

**Permit & Resource Management Department
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404**

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Juanita Ashe, Judy Boyce, Chris Rohde, Marie Sparks, Robert Villegas

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Maggie Martin

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS: Boyce called to order at 5:38 PM

II. CONSENT ITEMS:

Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved.

Approval of March 31, 2008 Minutes: The Minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Kromer (AKA The Toxic Reverend) addressed the Commission. He is concerned about what he considers to be many problems that stem from toxic exposure, including mental illness. He also asserted that, since the toxic exposure is not identified as the root cause for many health conditions, our nation's health care costs increase because of inappropriate and/or ineffective treatment. He also expressed his concern about law enforcement's treatment of the mentally ill and advocates both for a psychiatric oversight group and for random testing of law enforcement officials to determine steroid use.

IV. COMMISSION UPDATE:

Swearing in of New Commissioner (if appropriate): None.

Openings and Appointments: Rohde announced that there are ten openings in Districts 1 (3 openings), 2 (1 opening), 3 (3 openings), 4 (2 openings) and 5 (1 opening).

Martin announced that Supervisor Reilly has approved Jim DePriest's candidacy to serve on CHR, and he will be appointed at the Board's May 13th meeting.

Sparks announced that she may be moving out of the area in the near future.

V. SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATE: None.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Strategic Planning (Work Plan Development): Boyce reported that she and Rebecca Hollingsworth (Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women) addressed the Board at its April 22nd meeting. The Supervisors unanimously expressed their support of

the Commissions and their efforts to work collaboratively. They approved the Work Plan and the amendment to the Bylaws (to change CHR's regular meeting date) unanimously.

Commission Meetings: Rohde noted that with the Board's approval of the Bylaws, the meeting schedule has not been officially changed to the 4th Tuesday of each month. However he noted that the new schedule will mean that the meeting falls in the same week as both the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays this year. Martin explained that she is not certain that the Hearing Room is available on the 3rd Tuesday in November (the 18th) and December (the 16th). MOTION by Rohde: *Move hold the Commission's regular meeting November and December 2008 on the 3rd Tuesday of each month due to holiday schedules, assuming the Hearing Room is available on those date.* Second by Ashe and carried unanimously.

Human Trafficking: Villegas reported that the planning group for this event ins making impressive progress. The highlights are as follows:

- The event will be held on July 2nd.
- The venue will probably be the sanctuary at Congregation Shomrei Torah off Petaluma Hill Road in Santa Rosa.
- Mark Klaas of the Polly Klaas Foundation has expressed his support and is willing to help with the presentation in some way.

The next steps are:

- Finalizing the arrangements for how the funds pledged by the Soroptimists, CHR and CSW will be administered.
- Develop the publicity campaign.
- Determine and invite "critical players" so that they will be in the audience and can participate both in the discussion and in the call to action at the conclusion of the program.

Challenge Day Sponsorship/Involvement: Boyce read the draft letter to Travis White of the Petaluma Circle of Change offering CHR's support for the Challenge Day Program through volunteers and publicity effort. The letter explains the CHR cannot pledge financial support to this worthy program.

Commission Group Resume Exercise: The Commissioners shared the places they had lived. See attached Resume for detailed listing of locations.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Education Program Proposals: Sparks and Martin reviewed the two proposed programs. Martin explained that we do not have a firm proposal from Listening for a Change for review, because she has not provided the draft contract that Listening for a Change will need to review. However, given the expenditures to date, there could be as much as \$8,000 available to spend on these two projects before the close of the fiscal year. MOTION by Ashe: *"Move to authorize staff to proceed with contracts with Listening for a Change for the Commissioner Training and the High School Training Program Development projects provided expenditures do not exceed \$8,000."* Second by Villegas and carried unanimously

Commission Training and Strategic Planning Schedule: Commissioners provided update on their availability for training and/or strategic planning. The consensus was that

June 16th and June 18th are the best dates. Martin will proceed with making arrangements and notify Commissioners of the schedule.

Roseland Cinco de Mayo Festival: Boyce apologized for any confusion about the schedule for tabling at the Festival. After some discussion, it was agreed that Sparks and Villegas would take the first shift, Boyce and Jim DePriest the second, and Jim DePriest and Anne-Jeanne Rothchild the third.

VIII. STAFF REPORT:

Correspondance: Martin announced that she had received a late e-mail request for a Commissioner to attend the Petaluma Community Access Board meeting on Tuesday, April 29th at 7:00. No Commissioner was available, and Martin agreed to let them know.

Update on Staff Activities:

- **Referral Guide:** Martin explained that Nadine Jaillet has been working on other priorities (e.g., unpacking the office, Cinco de Mayo tabling organization) and has not had the chance to finalize the Guide.
- **Budget Preparation:** Martin reported that, to date, there has not been any proposed reduction in CHR's program funds for the 2007 – 2008 Fiscal Year. However, she cautioned that the budget process is far from complete at this point.

IX. ACTIVITY REPORTS:

Awards Event: Sparks reported that we have received a check from The Pasta King for the tickets he purchased. Martin explained that this will bring the total net proceeds to approximately \$1,200 which will be split with Listening for a Change.

Strengthening the Commission: Updates covered under Commission Update Old Business and New Business sections above.

Communicating with the Public: No report.

Educating the Public: Sparks reported the following progress:

- She and Martin have identified a more efficient means of communicating with the High Schools through the department heads. From their experience with the Santa Rosa School District, these lists are readily available.
- Martin met with Dr. Carl Wong, Superintendent of Sonoma County Office of Education. Dr. Wong was supportive of publicizing the youth award nominations in the fall and of providing space for diversity training and other outreach efforts.
- Windsor High School has asked CHR to table at an event on campus on May 15th. Sharks will attend.

Developing Ties with Human Rights Organizations & Building Strategic Partnerships: No report.

X. DISTRICT REPORT / COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

XI. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 5:30 PM.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:27PM.