



COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Commission on Human Rights

August 28, 2006

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

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Catherine Andrade, Juanita Ashe, Judy Boyce, Herb Genelly, Reece Foxen, Dalia Goldschmidt-Sheff, Sally Miller, Chris Rohde, Anne-Jeanne Rothchild, Marie Sparks, David Wilson

Commissioners Absent: Abigail Barajas (Notified)

Community Members Present: Christopher Benton (Youth of Human Rights)

Staff Present: Dawn Matheny, Maggie Martin

I. Call to Order/Introductions: Sparks called to order at 5:46 PM.

II. Consent Items:

Approval of Agenda: The item was tabled for lack of a quorum.

Approval of June 26, 2006 Minutes: The Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Approval of July 24, 2006 Minutes: The Minutes were reviewed and approved.

III. Commission Update: Sparks announced that Chris Rohde had been reappointed to represent the 2nd District and that Linda Kelley (5th District) has submitted her resignation.

IV. Public Comment: Christopher Benton, a Santa Rosa resident introduced himself and made a brief presentation on the Youth for Human Rights. This organization is a grass roots movement to educate youth on the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, created by the United Nations in 1948. He showed a sampling of Public Service Announcements on the Universal Declaration and shared brochures and other information about the organization. He will work with Foxen, as the Education Committee Chair.

V. Old Business:

Revised Commission Bylaws: The Bylaws had been drafted through a lengthy review process that the Commission had assigned to Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee and staff. The draft of the revised Bylaws had been distributed to Commissioners prior to the meeting with the request that Commissioners review them and bring questions and concerns to the meeting.

Sparks solicited any additional comments and questions from each Commissioner. A lengthy discussion and detailed review of the draft ensued, and two additional revisions were made. Motion by Rothchild: *Approve the Bylaws with the revision that the first sentence of Article II (Purpose) be changed to include "communication," and substitute "initiation of action" for "by initiating action," and that "scheduled" be substituted for*

“held” in the first sentence of Article IV (Meetings) A (Date/Time). Seconded by Rohde. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair: Sparks called for any additional nominations from the floor.

Elections: Item deferred until the September meeting due to time constraints.

Commission Structure: Item deferred until September meeting due to time constraints.

Training For Commissioners: Sparks announced reminded the Commissioners that the upcoming ethics training is mandatory. She asked those Commissioners who have not already signed up for a session to contact the Commission office.

VI. New Business:

Nominations Officer-at-Large: Sparks asked for nominations from the floor for the elected office of Member-at-Large. Rohde and Miller were nominated.

Board Resolution Proclaiming Race Equality Week: Matheny explained that the office had been asked to coordinate the Board’s proclamation of Race Equality Week with the City’s. Motion by Miller: *“The Commission supports the request for a Board resolution proclaiming October 7 through October 15 to be Race Equality Week in Sonoma County and authorizes staff to draft and file the resolution.”* Seconded by Rohde and carried unanimously.

Commission Participation in Upcoming Events: Sparks announced that signups are needed to staff the table at the Race Equality Week Festival on October 15th. A sign-up sheet was passed around. Further discussion of events was tabled due to time constraints.

VII. Staff Report: Item tabled due to time constraints.

VIII. Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: Item tabled due to time constraints.

Education Committee: Foxen reported briefly that the ADL training had been held at Windsor High School. Additional activities are going on at other schools. A more detailed report will be submitted at the next meeting.

Events Committee: Sparks reported briefly that the planning for this year’s event is continuing and progress is being made in soliciting nominations and sponsorships.

Public Relations & Marketing:

- *Current Committee Projects:* Rothchild drew everyone’s attention to the brochure and speech template material that had been distributed to all.
- *Race Equality Week:* Item tabled due to time constraints.

VIII. District Report / Commissioner Announcements: Genelly reported that he had been in contact with a representative of Catholic Charities about her concern about the discrimination faced by day laborers. He is working with her to find a way that the Commission might support her efforts to humanize these issues in the public’s eyes. He will report on this issue at the next meeting once he has had the chance to explore her concerns in greater detail and identify an appropriate role for the Commission in this issue.

IX. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 25, 2006 at 5:30 PM.

X. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.