



COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Commission on Human Rights

October 28, 2008

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

AMENDED MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Judy Boyce, Jim de Priest, Chris Rohde, Krishna Kumar,
Judy Rice

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Robert Villegas

STAFF PRESENT: Dell Jacoby

INTERN PRESENT: Gerald Meyer*

PUBLIC PRESENT: Art and Georgina Warmoth

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS: Boyce called to order at 5:31 PM.

I. CONSENT ITEMS: The agenda for October 28, 2008 and minutes of September 23, 2008 Commission meetings were approved (dePriest; Rohde).

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

III. COMMISSION UPDATE:

Swearing in of New Commissioner: Judy Rice, Commissioner representing the 5th District, was sworn in by the Clerk of the Board prior to the Commission meeting.

Openings and Appointments: Rohde reported that there are nine openings in Districts 1st (2 openings), 2nd (2 openings), 3rd (3 openings), and 4th (2 openings). Gerald Meyers' and Wayne Downey's names have been forwarded to Supervisor Smith for appointment to the 3rd District. Judy Rice's appointment fills representation from the 5th District.

IV. SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATE: There were no Supervisor contacts reported.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

Commission Group Resume Exercise: Judy Rice updated the Commission on her group resume information.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Summary of Actions Taken at the Strategic Planning Meeting:

The Commission met for the second of two Strategic Planning Meetings on October 28, from 1:00 to 4:00 at the La Plaza B Conference Room, 2300 County Center Drive, Santa Rosa, followed by the regular Commission meeting at 5:30 at the PRMD Hearing Room,

2550 Ventura Ave., Santa Rosa. The Commission reviewed its present work plan for update and revision, with the following actions taken:

Strengthening the Commission: Action Taken:

- Commissioners moved to remove “Strengthen relations of Commission through team building exercises designed to foster openness and understanding” from the Commission Work Plan and institute the practice as an ongoing effort of the Commission.
- Commissioners moved to remove “Communicate with Board of Supervisors to ensure candidates are familiar with roles, responsibilities, programs and mission of CHR” from the Commission Work Plan and institute the practice as an ongoing effort of the Commission. Representatives from the 1st (dependent on the outcome), 3rd, and 5th Districts will meet with new Supervisors to update them on the roles, responsibilities, programs and mission of CHR.
- The Commission moved to provide off site and Commission meeting training on the skills and regulatory requirements of Commissioners when a need is determined by the Commission. The Commission will continue to participate in Public Service Ethics Training for Boards and Commissions provided by the Board of Supervisors under AB 1234, training provided under California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO), human rights related training provided by our partner, Listening for a Change, as well as Commission related training provided by the County.

Outreach to the Public: Action Taken:

- Fall is too busy for the schools to organize and support a program such as the *Essence of Acceptance* curriculum for the spring semester; the Commission agreed to continue contact with Schools through Spring of 2009 for an implementation in Fall 2009. Commissioners will contact principals and faculty sponsors in Spring of 2009.
- Focus will be on two schools as a pilot – Santa Rosa High and Elsie Allen High.
- The Commission moved to revise the goal “Work with school districts to ensure schools have appropriate policies, tools and resources to deal effectively with diversity issues” to “Contact school districts to inquire if they would like the Commission to review their policies, tools and resources to deal with diversity issues on campus.” **Ownership of this objective to be determined.**
- The Commission moved to delay the goal “Consider expanding education programs to reach younger students” until Commissioner membership increases. **Ownership of this objective to be determined.**

Human Rights Awards: Action Taken:

The Commission discussed the Human Rights Awards event to be held on January 17, 2008. The Commission discussed and took action on the following:

- The Commission agreed to abandon the current dinner format as it exists for the Human Rights Awards (Kumar/Rohde);
- The Commission directs the Planning Committee to review staff recommendations for a venue and choose an appropriate location to hold a

revised Human Rights Awards celebration (Rohde/Rice) not to exceed \$600 in rental fees.

- The Commission agreed to adopt an afternoon format presenting awards to honorees and providing entertainment and dessert refreshments at a reception (Kumar/Rice). The Commission took a straw vote and agreed that the event would be at no charge for attendance and that donations will be encouraged prior to and at the event.

Summary of Actions Taken by Board of Supervisors on Proposition 8:

Boyce updated the Commission on the 4-1 vote of the Board of Supervisors to not support Proposition 8, which would enact a state constitutional amendment to define marriage as between a man and a woman.

Community Conversation Circles:

Staff introduced a new effort of Listening for a Change called Community Conversation Circles, a program seeking to document community relations feedback. The Commission agreed to invite Listening for a Change to present to the Commission at its next meeting.

VII. STAFF REPORT:

Update on Projects, Activities and Issues: Staff reminded Commissioners that the Commission meeting schedule will change for November and December, due to holiday schedules. The Commission will meet on November 18 and December 16, 2008.

Correspondence:

- Staff distributed the current UASA Newsletter for Commissioner information.
- Staff outlined AB 1234, mandated ethics training for Boards and Commissions and informed Commissioners that they may comply by attending a Board of Supervisors' sponsored training on either November 12, 9:30 to 11:30, or November 17, 5:30 to 7:30. Other options include a self guided video that can be obtained through the Commissions Office or an online version provided free of charge by the Fair Political Practices Commission. All Commissioners are required to complete two hours of training every two years.
- Staff distributed a flyer announcing the date of the Fountaingrove Environmental Impact Report hearing and a flyer announcing implementation of the 211 referral line in February 2009.

Attendance Report: Staff distributed attendance report.

VIII. ACTIVITY REPORTS:

The following areas of focus are reported on in VI. Old Business:

Strengthening the Commission:

Outreach to the Public:

Partnerships with Organizations and Agencies:

Human Rights Organizations

IX. DISTRICT REPORT / COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS: No report.

X. NEXT MEETING: The next Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 5:30 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 PM.

* Amended entry