

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

### *Regular Meeting Minutes-AMENDED*

March 7, 2019

#### **I. Call to order: 5:00 PM**

#### **II. ROLL CALL:**

*Present:* DuBois, Glover, Heise, Larsen, Lochtie, Miller, Rowe, Vanlandingham, Wilson

*Absent:* Anzada, Rush

OUT OF SEQUENCE: Our newest Commissioner, Toby Vanlandingham from District Five introduced himself.

#### **III. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: February 7, 2018.**

Lochtie moved, Wilson seconded to approve as amended.

*Approve:* 7

*Oppose:* 0

*Abstain:* 2

#### **IV. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

Rowe requested we complete actionable items by 7pm. Chair advised we would do the best we can.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sean McLaughlin, representing Access Humboldt radio and television, reminded the commission of previous collaborations and expressed a willingness to work with the commission on future projects. Miller pointed out instability of funding. McLaughlin pointed out there was a large lobbying effort underway to address this issue. Members of the commission were sympathetic and the chair indicated we would continue to stay in touch.

#### **VI. GUEST PRESENTATION:**

Brian Ahearn, Arcata Police Chief, made a 15 minute presentation and answered several questions from commissioners. He generally praised the state of human rights in Arcata and acknowledged the challenges of this community. He emphasized "ownership" of the way citizens are treated and said it can be challenging, but his team is committed to the work.

Ahearn also addressed the ongoing difficulty of the Lawson killing, noting a full time detective has been added to the staff and a Special Services unit has been established. These steps should improve investigations going forward.

The Chief also pointed out the need for officers to show their human side so the public feels comfortable approaching. Wilson pointed out the need to avoid stigmatizing some members of the community. Larsen questioned steps taken to

engage with the Indigenous population. Ahearn cited several examples of both including engagement with Equity Arcata and the Wiyot Tribe.

**a) Emails, Regular Mail, Phone Calls:**

There were several emails, including responses to our public records requests one from the ACLUnc which was not productive. In total, five cities have with only Blue Lake and Rio Dell failing to do

so.

**c) Message Line:**

Commissioners Larsen and Lochtie reported on local calls, mentioning restroom access in Eureka and one woman who felt she was being discriminated against at work due to her being hispanic. Glover said he would reach out to Charlie Bean who had previously done research on public restroom access. Lochtie referred the woman to some legal resources. Resource cards are no longer available until DHHS does a revision in April.

March 1-15 \_\_\_\_\_Glover\_\_\_\_\_

March 16-31\_\_\_\_\_Miller\_\_\_\_\_

Commissioners Rowe and Wilson will have phone duty in the month of April.

**VII. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Lochtie reported \$800.04 in the Commission checking account. That balance is earmarked for outreach efforts.

**VIII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**HOMELESS CRIMINALIZATION AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Chair Glover noting the vacancy on the ad hoc committee of Morton, noted the responses we have received regarding our records requests. A meeting of the committee will be scheduled soon to discuss next steps.

**HATE SPEECH, BULLYING, VIOLENT THREATS AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Wilson noted efforts to engage students at HSU to work on the issue have not been successful so far, but she shared information about a podcast that would be helpful. APD Chief Ahearn seemed eager to meet to advance this discussion. He and the committee will meet to strategize.

**HSU COLLABORATION ON INTERNSHIPS**

Heise indicated that little more can be expected until next semester. A flyer has been circulated on campus.

### **RESOURCE CARDS**

Glover reported that DHHS had agreed to co-facilitate the Resource Card project. The first printing should be completed by the end of April. We will distribute to non-DHHS entities like libraries, schools, police departments, etc.

## **IX. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING FUND COMMITTEE OF THE HRC**

DuBois reported that two groups had been awarded grants for \$10,000 each. The groups will be expected to provide a monthly progress report in April, May, and June. Brandie suggested DuBois could create a Google form for this process, which would be addressed to the HRC. Larsen questioned the due date of another grant and were there other organizations that applied. Glover reminded the Commission of the need to attend county Budget Road Shows in an effort to secure funding for the next fiscal year budget.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF SANCTUARY ORDINANCE**

Chair Glover reported that the complaint process has been approved and the Measure K Incident Report form would be online soon.

## **X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **LATINONET**

Lochtie noted there will be a bikeathon instead of a health fair, so this might not be the best venue for the HRC. She later committed to representing us at this event. Heise questioned if we had not already put tabling on hold until we develop a strategy. Glover asked Lochtie to inform us of any changes to the details.

### **RACISM TRAINING**

This training will take place on March 20 at 3 pm and nine people indicated they would attend.

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **CANNABIS HUMAN RIGHTS**

DuBois initiated a discussion of a proclamation noting the human rights of people in the Cannabis industry. Wilson questioned the need for a medical proclamation and Larsen questioned the rights of non-cannabis individuals as well. Heise questioned whether a proclamation was the appropriate

action as those are usually a statement of facts or values. It was suggested that DuBois return with other materials supporting her thinking before asking the commission to take action. This will be taken up at a later date.

**XII. FUTURE AGENDAS:**

**a) Proposed agenda items for April**

**XIII. Adjournment: 6:53 PM**