

MINUTES OF MURRAY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
April 8, 2013
5:00 P.M.

The Murray Human Rights Commission met in regular session on Monday, April 8, 2013, at 5 p.m. in City Hall's Council Chambers of City Hall with Chair Jody Cofer presiding.

Members Present: Chair Jody Cofer, Dr. Brian Clardy, Linda Cherry, Paula Compton, and Dr. Peggy Pittman-Munke

Members Absent: Connie Payne, Tung Dinh, and Jane Shoemaker

Staff Present: Mayor Bill Wells and City Clerk June Batts

Others in Attendance: Edward Marlowe, *Murray Ledger and Times*

Chair Cofer welcomed members, introductions were made, and the meeting began at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Wells listed upcoming events including a visit from Peter Yarrow, an event for a diversity-related program at Murray State University, and a visit from Henderson Human Rights Commission Members and city officials.

Chair Cofer stated that the City Administrator and City Attorney were scheduled to attend the May meeting of the Commission. The normal meeting date of May 13, however, would not work for the City Attorney and May 6th had been picked for the meeting to discuss the City of Murray's Human Rights Ordinance assuming the date was convenient for commission members. Chair Cofer stated that the Henderson group had been notified of the date change and was given the option to attend or wait until the June 10th meeting. Mayor Wells said that Henderson was invited to meet with commission members at 4:00 p.m. prior to the tentatively scheduled May 6th HRC Meeting at 5:00. Chair Cofer will coordinate with the Henderson individuals.

Commission members introduced themselves to new member, Paula Compton.

Minutes of the Murray Human Rights Commission February 11, 2013 Meeting were presented for approval. Dr. Clardy moved to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Dr. Pittman-Munke. Chair Cofer called for discussion. After no discussion, Chair Cofer called for a voice vote in which all members present were in favor of the motion.

Old Business: Chair Cofer presented a report of discussion group comments from the Town Hall Meeting. He stated that the commission had received a lot of community support for the campaign from the Cheri theatre, both school districts, and Dr. Beane's Bully Free Systems, LLC. Chair Cofer said that so far all programs had been well received and that attendance of the Bullying Conference on April 6th exceeded 90 participants; the March 26th free showing of the movie "Bully" exceeded 200.

Dr. Munke said that Becky Cohn-Vargas, Director of Not in Our Schools, was looking into making Murray an anchor city for the Not in Our Town/Not in Our School program, which would

bring national attention to the campaign. Dr. Pittman-Munke said that she would keep the commission posted on the status of the designation.

Chair Cofer stated that the campaign was at the point where commission members should begin to think about what actions and recommendations should be taken or conveyed to the City Council, school systems, and Mayor. He said that the commission was at the beginning phase of deciding upon action steps for recommendation, and that it was a good time to start thinking about and circulating lists of possible next steps.

The commission discussed ideas for future programs and summer activities to continue the campaign's momentum, including outreach to area churches, city broadcasts of Dr. Beane's program as well as articles for the media. Chair Cofer stated that Henderson was interested in modeling the Murray HRC to build a bullying campaign, as Paducah did, and was interested to see Hopkinsville and Mayfield follow suit. Chair Cofer stated that he had been invited by Dr. Guess to participate in a conference call which would bring national attention to the campaign.

Chair Cofer stated that he and Dr. Beane were working with the City on language for a bullying ordinance, but the work was not ready to be brought before the commission. He said that definition was still the big issue. Dr. Clardy stated that the commission should be mindful that enforcement was an integral issue in the revision of the ordinance.

Chair Cofer stated that a timeline of the revision of Murray Human Rights Ordinance was suggested, and the City Attorney would attend a May 6th HRC meeting to address issues and answer questions. The commission discussed moving the May 13th meeting to May 6th. Chair Cofer stated, the ordinance could then be sent to the City Council in June with a possible first reading to be scheduled on June 27th. He said Henderson would either attend the May 6th or June 10th HRC meeting.

Chair Cofer asked, and commission members agreed, to use HRC funds to offset Dr. Pittman-Munke's expenses related to the recent Anti-Bully Conference at Murray State on April 6th.

Chair Cofer reminded members of upcoming events, including the May 6th and June 10th HRC meetings, the free concert by Peter Yarrow to benefit 'Operation Respect', and Dr. Beane's efforts as a consultant.

Chair Cofer called for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Clardy moved; seconded by Dr. Pittman-Munke.

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.