

MINUTES OF MURRAY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
September 9, 2013
5:00 P.M.

The Murray Human Rights Commission met in regular session on Monday, September, at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall's Council Chambers of City Hall with Chair Jody Cofer Randall presiding.

Members Present: Chair Jody Cofer Randall, Linda Cherry, Paula Compton, Dr. Brian Clardy, Dr. Peggy Pittman-Munke, Connie Payne, Jane Shoemaker, Tung Dinh

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Mayor Bill Wells, Matt Mattingly, June Batts

Others in Attendance: Dr. Allan Beane, Bully Free Systems, LLC.; Linda Avery, Character Counts Coalition and Calloway County Circuit Court Clerk; Boyd Smith, First Baptist Church Edward Marlowe, *Murray Ledger and Times*

Chair Cofer Randall welcomed members and guests and the meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Chair Cofer Randall recognized Dr. Allan Beane, presented an overview of "7 Ways Churches Must Address Bullying."

Commission members discussed bullying prevention as a moral issue, societal influences on bullying, the age at which bullying starts, parenting, domestic abuse, television monitoring.

Chair Cofer Randall recognized Linda Avery who presented an overview of the Character Counts Coalition program and past and present initiatives including an annual Character Award. Ms. Avery stated that employers were asked to encourage employees to sign a pledge to exhibit the six character traits of respect, trustworthiness, responsibility, caring fairness, and good citizenship. She said if 75% of employees sign, employers would receive a certificate from Character Counts Coalition, and that Sirloin Stockade was the first in Murray to agree to participate in the program. She further stated the Character Counts Coalition program would mesh well with the Anti Bullying campaign and recommended a member of the HRC join the Character Counts Coalition.

Mayor Wells said he could prepare a joint Anti Bullying/Character Counts Coalition proclamation to be signed by community leaders.

Chair Cofer Randall stated the Commission's plan to create a certification program was problematic in regard to funding resources and liability issues. He said a shift toward a pledge and business stickers would be more manageable, and since bullying was part of Character Counts, perhaps a collaborative effort was appropriate. Dr. Beane stated although Character Counts was an outstanding program, it did not have all the components required to be an anti-bullying program. The Commission discussed partnering with the Character Counts Coalition in regard to online training and curriculum, exploring campaign direction, and recognized the contributions of Dr. Alan Beane.

Chair Cofer Randall recognized Boyd Smith, First Baptist Church. Mr. Smith stated that participation could be increased with faith-based organizations by reaching out through phone calls, rather than through letters. Mr. Smith encouraged the Commission to continue reaching out to faith-based organizations.

Chair Cofer Randall stated calls would be made before the November 11th meeting for another attempt at a faith-based anti-bully presentation. He also said the Commission was in support of the Character Counts effort, a Commission member would be selected to serve on the Coalition, and the Commission would explore online training opportunity options.

Chair Cofer Randall recognized Linda Cherry, who gave an update on the anti-bully athletics video clips. He said advertisements would be in the MSU football programs and show 20 or 30 second public service announcements. He said anti-bully commercials would be shown during basketball games, which are streamed on the internet, and plans are underway to have athletes read themed books to area school children. The Commission discussed the use of psa's and commercials in other venues. Chair Cofer Randall asked Commissioners to come to the October Meeting with ideas for the future of the campaign.

The Commission asked Dr. Beane to compose a joint proclamation with the Character Counts Coalition to be signed and published before October, which is Bully Prevention Month. Mayor Wells stated the proclamation could be signed at 10:00 a.m. on September 27th by himself, Judge Elkins, with Sheriff Marcum, Chief Liles, and members of the Commission in attendance.

Old business:

The Minutes of August 12, 2013 were presented for approval. Ms. Shoemaker motioned to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Dr. Clardy. All members present were in favor of the motion.

Chair Cofer Randall stated that there was nothing new to report regarding Human Rights Ordinance. He said an email had been distributed by Ms. Shoemaker seeking an update, and would be a topic for discussion at the October 14th meeting.

New business:

Chair Cofer Randall invited comments/issues from Commission Members. He stated Jeff Graham would be presenting a program about HIV/AIDS at 7:30 p.m. in the Curris Center Ballroom on September 16th. Admission was free. He reminded members that the next HRC meeting was scheduled for October 14th.

Dr. Clardy motioned to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Shoemaker. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.