

MINUTES OF MURRAY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
February 10, 2014
4:00 P.M.

The Murray Human Rights Commission met in regular session on Monday, February 10, 2014 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. Peggy Pittman-Munke, Jane Shoemaker, Tung Dinh, Connie Payne

Members Absent: Dr. Brian Clardy

Staff Present: Mayor Bill Wells, June Batts

Others in Attendance: Jane Brandon, Hawkins Teague

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

The Minutes of January 13, 2014 were presented for approval. **Ms. Shoemaker motioned** to accept the minutes as presented; **seconded by Ms. Payne**. All members present were in favor of the motion.

Ms. Cherry asked for clarification regarding the reallocation/redirection of Housing Authority in-lieu-of tax funds to the Gentry House. The Commission discussed the distribution and administration of the funds.

Chair Cofer Randall said he would follow up with the City Administrator to find out how the funds were distributed, when the current system was set in place, what agency determined the distribution percentages, and how the distribution could be changed to include other agencies.

Mayor Wells stated a letter recommending Ms. Cherry, Dr. Pittman Munke, and Dr. Robert Lyons for appointment to the Gentry House Board of Directors had been sent to Dr. Rose Bogal Allbritten. Ms. Cherry and Dr. Pittman Munke stated they had heard "unofficially" that their appointments had been approved.

The Commission discussed Gentry House matters including the decision to rescind the closing date, purchase new bedding for the units, raising funds, creating a reserve fund, and clientele challenges. Dr. Munke stated a part-time coordinator had been found.

Old business:

Chair Cofer Randall stated he had met with the City Administrator regarding the Human Rights Ordinance update. He said necessary elements which must first be set in place concerned the creation of bylaws, an intake process, and policies and procedures for handling complaints. He said the positions of Fairness Officer and Hearing Officer would be created for the purpose of mediation/complaints. He also said it made sense to merge the Fair Housing Ordinance of 1994 with the Human Rights Ordinance, as several cities in Kentucky had already done. Commission members agreed. Chair Cofer Randall stated members would first see the drafting of bylaws,

followed by the construction of policies and procedures before the new Human Rights Ordinance would be ready for approval.

New business:

Chair Cofer Randall stated the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights was organizing the 50th Anniversary Civil Rights March on Frankfort scheduled for March 5, 2014. He said he would be driving a Murray State van to the event and invited members to attend.

Chair Cofer Randall requested a member investigate ways the Commission could assist the Merryman House Domestic Crisis Center (located in Paducah) to better provide service to our area since the loss of the Murray advocate due to lack of funding. Commission members discussed a possible Merryman House\Gentry House partnership.

Chair Cofer Randall asked members in which direction they would like to continue with the Committee on Poverty. He said as housing standards relate to poverty, slum housing could be addressed and asked members to meet and discuss how to proceed before the next Human Rights Commission meeting in March.

The Commission discussed City regulations/policies governing housing, code enforcement, and a resolution to be drafted by Chair Cofer Randall before the next Commission meeting.

Chair Cofer Randall called for comments from Commission Members. He reminded them of the next Human Rights Commission Meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2014.

With no further business before the Commission, **Ms. Cherry motioned to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Shoemaker.** All members present were in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.