

## MINUTES OF MURRAY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

May 12, 2014

4:00 P.M.

The Murray Human Rights Commission met in regular session on Monday, May 12, 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, Paula Compton, Dr. Peggy Pittman-Munke, Jane Shoemaker, Tung Dinh, Connie Payne, Linda Cherry

**Members Absent:** Dr. Brian Clardy

**Staff Present:** Mayor Bill Wells, June Batts

Chair Cofer Randall welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

The Minutes of March 10, 2014 were presented for approval. **Ms. Payne motioned** to accept the minutes as presented; **seconded by Ms. Shoemaker**. All members present were in favor of the motion.

### **Old business:**

Chair Cofer Randall stated, aside from the bylaws to be presented later in the meeting, there was nothing to report regarding the Human Rights Ordinance Update.

Chair Cofer Randall stated the Committee on Poverty met and recognized Dr. Pittman Munke who offered a report on the April meeting. Dr. Pittman Munke stated members of the committee thought there was too much emphasis on the individual aspects of poverty and they needed to talk more on the structural aspects—such as fair wage (as opposed to minimum wage), good affordable housing. She said the meeting generated several recommendations:

- Determine what job skills are needed/desired by local employers
- Approach local technical schools/university to provide needed/desired training
- Work with employers to provide flexibility for employed students
- Approach area businesses about providing internship/mentoring positions
- Partner with local organizations to bring events/opportunities to Murray
- Partner with local business organizations (EDC, MSU, Chamber)
- Remedy blighted properties
- Develop community job/worker resource bank

Mayor Wells stated blighted properties will be addressed by a code enforcement officer, if the proposed position is approved by council in the upcoming budget vote.

The Commission discussed the addition of a code enforcement official.

Chair Cofer Randall suggested the Committee on Poverty schedule a meeting with Mark Manning of the EDC, Aaron Dail from the Chamber of Commerce, and others to address challenges from the business standpoint.

**New business:**

Chair Cofer Randall presented the proposed HRC bylaws to Commission members for approval. Chair Cofer Randall noted a few necessary revisions and asked members to review the document. He asked if any other changes were needed and said that they could be amended in the future. He said he would entertain a motion to approve immediate adoption of the bylaws (with revisions).

**Ms. Shoemaker moved; seconded by Ms. Cherry.** All members present were in favor of the motion.

Chair Cofer Randall stated he recently attended a Local Human Rights Commission Roundtable in Owensboro, and presented an overview of notes and meeting highlights—attached. He said Paducah, Mayfield, and Hopkinsville did not participate. He stated the Murray Commission's issues/priorities seemed in line with what other West Kentucky communities reported. Chair Cofer stated lack of minority representation on state and local boards and commissions was discussed at the round table, and said state board representation was actually in decline in recent years. He reviewed state and regional statistics related to Human Rights complaints and reporting trends with regard to race and gender. Chair Cofer Randall then presented the Kentucky Council on Post-Secondary Education report on college-readiness of state students.

Ms. Payne questioned numbers listed on the report for Calloway County and Murray. Commission members discussed the report. Chair Cofer Randall said he would follow up with members' questions and get clarification.

Chair Cofer Randall stated the Department for Local Governments encouraged local commissions to get involved with any Community Development Block Grants applications in their communities. Mayor Wells discussed recent CDBG grants and the sidewalk grants applied for and received by the City with members.

Chair Cofer Randall also said the round table members discussed the importance of implementation of public hearings for the purpose of addressing local Human Rights issues and building a calendar to address topics chosen by members.

Chair Cofer Randall presented a draft letter advocating state/local official to place a priority on diversity in state board/commission representation as well as municipal entities—attached. He stated KRS required representation which reflects the population and said the Executive Branch Affirmative Action Plan was referenced in the letter and should be applied to state/municipal boards and commissions. **Dr. Pittman Munke made a motion to approve the letter; seconded by Ms. Shoemaker.** Members discussed Murray's population demographics, statistical data, and vehicles for increasing diversity in participation of local events/organizations/boards.

Chair Cofer Randall called for a voice vote in which all members present were in favor of the motion.

Chair Cofer Randall called for comments from Commission Members.

Ms. Payne asked for a status update on Shelby Bella, Miss Kentucky High School America, who addressed the Commission in March. Chair Cofer Randall stated he would follow up with Ms. Bella.

Chair Cofer Randall reminded members of the next Human Rights Commission Meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 9, 2014.

With no further business before the Commission, **Ms. Cherry motioned to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Shoemaker.** The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.