

MINUTES OF MURRAY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

July 14, 2014

4:00 P.M.

The Murray Human Rights Commission met in regular session on Monday, July 14, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall's Council Chambers of City Hall with Chairperson Jody Cofer Randall presiding.

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

Members Absent: Linda Cherry

Staff Present: Matt Mattingly, June Batts

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

The Minutes of June 9, 2014 were presented for approval. **Dr. Clardy motioned** to accept the minutes as presented; **seconded by Dr. Pittman-Munke**. All members present were in favor of the motion.

Old business:

Matt Mattingly presented an update regarding the Human Rights Ordinance revision. He said while he had completed review of the portion of the current ordinance that was established in the 1970's, he was still working on a housing oversight provision to the ordinance, which is something other communities currently have in place. Mr. Mattingly also stated as the City Council considers future legislation pertaining to dilapidated housing and code enforcement, language used in that legislation should reflect any housing oversight provision to the Human Rights Ordinance.

Chair Cofer Randall said it was common in other communities for a fair housing ordinance to be merged with a city's human rights ordinance. Chair Cofer Randall said more updates regarding the ordinance would come this fall.

Chair Cofer Randall stated the Committee on Poverty was in the process of setting up meetings with local business leaders to discuss current local issues related to poverty.

New business:

Chair Cofer Randall recognized Dr. David Eaton, Professor and Chair, Department of Economics of and Finance at Murray State University, who presented material regarding the effect(s) and economics of raising the minimum wage--attached.

Dr. Eaton fielded questions from Commission members regarding minimum wage, taxes, tax credits, rental housing, and other economic issues related to poverty.

Chair Cofer Randall stated members would be asked what type of action, with respect to Council, should be taken regarding Dr. Eaton's presentation at the next Commission meeting August 11th.

Chair Cofer Randall said October was Bully Prevention Month and activities currently being planned included a Character Counts/Bully Prevention joint proclamation signing scheduled for the latter part of September, as well as broadcasts of Dr. Beane's updated Bully Free instructional videos on the City's public access channel through Murray Electric. Chair Cofer Randall said members would be notified when the proclamation date and time were set and a schedule of Bully Free showings would be compiled and available to members.

Dr. Pittman-Munke briefed the Commission on a Hate Crimes Advisory Committee meeting she recently attended in Louisville. She said the advisory committee discussed the prevalence of hate crimes, the mislabeling of certain crimes that either should or should not be categorized as hate crimes and ways to decrease tolerance for such crimes.

Chair Cofer Randall said a letter had been received from the Murray State University Women's Center seeking sponsorship by the HRC to help fund programs and activities to increase awareness and reduce the instance of violence against women. Chair Cofer Randall invited comments from Commission members.

Dr. Clardy moved to make a recommendation to the Mayor for the HRC to be listed as a sponsor of the Women's Center at a level of \$200.00; **seconded by Dr. Pittman-Munke**. Without further discussion, all members present were in favor of the motion.

Chair Cofer Randall stated two revisions to Commission bylaws were proposed to Article III Section 3 (clarifying chairperson duties), and Article IV Section 4 as distributed in the June Commission packet (clarifying officer terms). **Dr. Pittman-Munke moved** to accept the revisions; **seconded by Dr. Clardy**. All members present were in favor of the motion.

Chair Cofer Randall stated the election of treasurer and secretary was due. Chair Cofer Randall said June Batts, who had been serving as secretary, could be elected to continue as a nonvoting member of the Commission.

Dr. Clardy stated he would agree to serve as treasurer.

Ms. Shoemaker moved to elect Dr. Clardy as Treasurer; June Batts as Secretary; **seconded by Ms. Payne**. All members present were in favor of the motion.

Chair Cofer Randall stated the next meeting was scheduled for August 11th, at which time Dr. Pittman-Munke would facilitate the first in a series of Issue Based Hearings regarding issues confronting individuals with disabilities.

With no other business before the Commission, **Ms. Shoemaker moved** to adjourn; seconded by **Dr. Pittman-Munke**. The meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Chair Cofer Randall invited member issues/comment. Hearing none, the Chair stated that at a prior meeting that day, the MSU President's Commission on Diversity and Inclusion prioritized forming partnerships with the City and entities in the City to increase diversity awareness and efforts community wide. Chair Cofer Randall said the President's Commission on Diversity and Inclusion was supportive of the HRC's Issue Hearings and may host/partner with HRC efforts in the future. The Chair reminded members the next Human Rights Commission Meeting was scheduled for July 14th.

With no further business before the Commission, **Dr. Clardy motioned to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Shoemaker.** The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.