

Versailles Midway Woodford County Human Rights Commission

Regular Meeting – February 7, 2008 – 6:30 PM – Woodford County Courthouse

Minutes

Members present: Gary Carter (GC), Ron Durbin (RD), Gary Finnell (GF), Jessie Franklin (JF), Floyd Greene (FG), Rod Hatt (RH), Lauren Hill (LH), Betsi Darden Jones (BDJ), Charlie Kahn (CK), Dean Langdon (DL)

1. Meeting called to order by DL at 6:36
2. Election of Officers
 - a. Slate of officers was made at December meeting. Since there was no quorum at January meeting, the Commission must now vote on the slate.
 - i. Rod Hatt – Chairman
 - ii. Floyd Greene – Vice Chairman
 - iii. Dean Langdon – Treasurer
 - iv. Charlie Kahn – Secretary
 - b. Motion to close nominations by GF – seconded by RD – unanimous vote to close nominations
 - c. Motion to accept slate by acclamation by GC – seconded by RD – unanimous vote to accept slate of officers.
3. Meeting turned over to Chairman-elect Rod Hatt
4. RH met with representative of state HRC
 - a. Our organization is not as much about investigation as it is about education
 - b. If citizens do have complaints, VMWCHRC can direct complainant to state HRC
 - c. BDJ states that we need to educate workers in the county
 - d. RD adds that Versailles Municipal Water can put an insert with bills sent to customers. This does not, however, reach county residents served by another water district.
5. RH states that since there are no minutes for the December 2007 meeting, and we failed to have a quorum at January meeting, we start with a clean slate.
6. RH passed out a flyer copied from the state HRC web site.
 - a. Copy of flyer is included as attachment to minutes sent by email.
 - b. Flyer addresses Kentucky Civil Rights Act
 - c. Act does not include sexual orientation
 - d. CK questions if act applies to illegal immigrants living in county
 - i. Yes – illegal immigrants do fit into minority group
 - ii. Also covered under labor rules
 - e. Flyer will be changed to have modified state logo used instead of the logo currently printed.
 - f. Motion to create modified poster in both English and Spanish is made by RH
 - i. Seconded by BDJ – passes unanimously
 - ii. CK & LH will have Spanish translation done by fluent speakers and present at next meeting
 - g. Motion to accept these flyers as our first educational promotion this year
 - i. Seconded by DL – passes unanimously
 - h. State has approved use of their logo on any county HRC documents

- i. Flyers will be distributed/posted at restaurants, community centers, government offices, other gathering places, etc.
7. What do we do?
 - a. FG states that, officially, we are a fact-finding commission on grievances / allegations before the perpetrator is charged. If there is no resolution in 60 days the investigation is passed on to the state HRC.
 - b. JF adds that we do not have enough complaints to get funding
 - c. BDJ comments that we have responded and resolved issues in the past
 - d. FG continues that we cannot address human misery with volunteers.
 - e. RD says we cannot justify full-time employee with our level of complaints. Perhaps our educational effort can increase the number of complaints we receive.
 - f. FG adds that it depends on how we perceive the problem. Unemployment numbers are misleading, since once a person stops seeking employment they are no longer counted among the statistics. Our numbers are much higher than reported. If people are more aware of what the VMWCHRC can do, we can be more of a watchdog for the community. The city & county governments have to be accountable through funding our commission. We have been on the state books since 1964, but have never been effective. To have an impact, we need an individual trained on Title VII.
 - g. RH ends discussion by stating that, in lieu of the ideal situation, we need to educate the public that we exist.
8. Discussion on taking out weekly ads in Woodford Sun will be continued to next meeting.
 - a. CK will look into costs of ads
 - b. CK will also send information on upcoming meetings and actions of the commission to the Woodford Sun.
9. CK was given key to PO Box 101 and will regularly check the mail and notify commission members of any issues that need attention.
10. We need to find out how to check messages at our phone number.
 - a. DL will get information from Martin Raymer
 - b. FG offered to be the commission member to check the messages.
11. All commission members should check the web page, <http://vmwchrc.org/> and make any suggestions to LH or DL, who have both had experience with our web designer.
12. CK requests that meeting agendas be emailed to him by RH 10 days before meetings and he will send them to all commission members with reminder of meeting time.
13. Next meeting is set for Thursday, March 6th at 6:00 ... note time change!
14. Motion is made by LH to adjourn – seconded by BDJ – unanimous passage
15. Meeting is adjourned at 7:40

Minutes submitted by Charlie Kahn, secretary