

Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
August 11, 2010

Present: Commissioners Adenekan, Schrader, Stambaugh, Turner, and Winkler  
Absent: Commissioners Elyakin and Wilson

Opening

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Old Business

- August Agenda Approved – Commissioner Turner made the motion and Commissioner Winkler seconded it, passed unanimously.
- June Minutes Approved – Commissioner Adenekan made the motion, Commissioner Schrader seconded it, passed with changes.
- July Meeting Summary – Commissioner Turner chaired this meeting in Commissioner Stambaugh’s absence and reported that, due to last minute cancellations, there was not a quorum at the July meeting. He reported that those present had useful discussions about a number of topics before the Commission.
- Update on the Educational Event Initiative -- Commissioner Schrader reported on her meeting with Tim Grimes, Community Relations Director of the Ann Arbor District Library. The Commission, the Washtenaw Community Health Organization (WCHO), the Community Support and Treatment Services (CSTS), and the AADL will partner to sponsor the video, *Believe in Me*, that addresses the stigma against the mentally ill population and was produced here in Ann Arbor. The showing will take place on October 2, from 2-5 pm at the Malletts Creek branch of the library [note: the date and time of the showing, added to these minutes, was actually finalized subsequent to the August 11 meeting]. The event was scheduled to coincide with Mental Health Awareness Week. Commissioner Schrader will try to arrange for a presentation or panel discussion by some of those “players” who appear in the video.
- Update on the Skyline case and the Fair Housing case involving the Ivanhoe Apartment complex. Commissioner Stambaugh noted that Judy McGovern of the Ann Arbor Chronicle was writing an article to correct the misleading articles that appeared when the incident occurred and to report on what has happened since it last appeared in the media last October. The Commission discussed the need for accurate and objective reporting on incidents like this and follow up, to make sure that lingering questions didn’t leave in doubt about whether justice had been served. Ivanhoe Complex was found to have been discriminatory in its rental practices and a penalty was levied against them by the court. The role of the Fair Housing Center of Southeastern Michigan in investigating and prosecuting this case was applauded.
- Meeting with Chief Jones. Commissioner Winkler met with Chief Jones this month and reported about the Chief’s interest in forming a working definition of “aggressive” panhandling. While Council has guided the police not to ticket

panhandlers unless their activity was “aggressive”, citizens define aggressive differently and perhaps the HRC could provide some guidelines. The Commission was curious about what guidelines other communities set and Commissioner Winkler offered to check the legal documentation and contact nearby cities that have ordinances that may be helpful (e.g., Plymouth and Northville).

- Political Belief Proposal Meeting with Carsten Hohnke. Commissioner Winkler reported on the meeting she and Commissioner Stambaugh attended with Council Member Hohnke. He added his support for the HRC proposal to add political belief to protections protected by the city’s Anti-Discrimination Ordinance and provided valuable logistical suggestions to aid our submission of this proposal.
- Commission “Business Cards”. Commissioner Stambaugh agreed to mock up a possible card that includes the Commission’s mission statement, web and email addresses.
- Scheduling the September HRC Meeting. To avoid a conflict with Rosh Hashanah on September 8, our next meeting was moved back one week. See note below.

Adjournment: Commissioner Winkler motioned and Commissioner Adenekan seconded. Approved. Adjournment took place around 9:15 pm.

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 15, at 7 p.m.