

MINUTES OF MURRAY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
January 13, 2014
4:00 P.M.

The Murray Human Rights Commission met in regular session on Monday, January 14, 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, Matt Mattingly, June Batts

Others in Attendance: Peggy Knight, Faye Dodd, Glada Dodd

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

The Minutes of December 9, 2013 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.

Old business:

Chair Cofer Randall stated there was no update on the Bully Free Community Education Campaign, but that he had been in contact with Dr. Allan Beane who was still willing to help with future activities.

Chair Cofer Randall said the Human Rights Ordinance was tabled in April 2013 for further discussion, and he met with Matt Mattingly and developed a work plan which detailed components that must be in place in order to proceed with ordinance adoption. He said he and Mr. Mattingly would start meeting regularly to construct those necessary components. Upon completion, the Human Rights Ordinance will be brought before the Commission for final review prior to City Council presentation.

Chair Cofer Randall presented an update on the status of the Gentry House. He said the initial proposal which included a \$1,000 increase in funding from the City and County for FY 2015 met opposition from Council and the Gentry House Board of Directors, who did not rescind their decision to close.

Chair Cofer recognized Dr. Munke who summarized the last Gentry House Board Meeting and expressed the necessity of maintaining the facility for families in transition. She stated with additional support from the City, Housing Authority, and Murray State the program could remain operational. She said HRC members would be available to temporarily fill board positions, should they come available, and review applications. She stated she could coordinate efforts to keep the Gentry House open, and said a full-time executive director position may be premature for a facility that serves four families.

Chair Cofer Randall outlined the Council's discussion concerning the potential give back of In Lieu of Tax funds. Matt Mattingly stated he had not spoken to the City Attorney yet, but did not have the opinion that those funds could be redirected to the Gentry House. He stated special appropriations were available for funding non-profits, but those decisions were made by the Mayor and Council. He said the in-lieu-of-tax funds could be redirected to the Housing Authority, upon request. The Commission discussed the redirection of funds to the Housing Authority.

Mayor Wells reviewed recent developments concerning the Gentry House. He presented an overview of an option for the Gentry House to continue operations with oversight of the Housing Authority pending approval of the Housing Authority Board. He said the City was exploring options with the Housing Authority to reopen the Gentry House on February 1st, should their Board decide to close on January 31st. Mayor Wells said the Housing Authority Board would meet on January 21st, and he and Matt Mattingly would be in attendance and present an update to Council on January 23rd.

Mr. Mattingly reminded Commission Members the Housing Authority owned the Gentry House property and structure and managed the maintenance of the facility as well.

The Commission discussed Gentry House funding, the use of Murray State student interns, current tenants of the Gentry House, and management of the program after the possible dissolution of the organization. Members discussed notification to the Gentry House Board of details discussed by Mayor Wells and the Commission.

Mayor Wells said the Gentry House Board was invited to the Commission's meeting, and he would send email notification to Dr. Rose Bogal Allbritten and the City Council upon meeting adjournment.

Chair Cofer Randall reminded Commission Members of the Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast at 8:30 in the Curris Center Small Ballroom on Monday, January 20th. He stated the Commission was co-sponsor of the event and was committed to share the expenses.

New business:

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, February 10, 2014.

Ms. Cherry stated the Merriman House had left Murray for lack of funding and said she would like to bring it back. Commission Members discussed the need for immediate emergency shelter in the community.

Mayor Wells requested a time be set for the Martin Luther King Jr. proclamation signing at City Hall. Commission members decided on Friday, January 17th at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Chair Cofer Randall stated Commission Members needed to submit a completed W-9 form to the Clerk's Office.

With no further business before the Commission, **Dr. Pittman Munke motioned to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Shoemaker.** The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.