

**Minutes
City of New Orleans
Human Relations Commission
4:30 PM Thursday, January 13, 2011
Archdiocese of New Orleans
1000 Howard Ave.**

Present: Aqeel Abdul Salaam, Therese Badon, Larry Bagneris Jr., Michie Bissell, Rabbi Edward Cohn, Beverly Greenwood, Martin Gutierrez, Joe Halm, Rev. Douglas M. Haywood, Georgette Ioup, Stephany Lyman, Johnny Messinger, Jane Parker, Rev. Phoebe Roaf, Petrice Sams-Abiodun, Dawn Segura (Legal Counsel) Craig Stewart, Jamie Tran, Jenny Yanez.

Absent: None.

Guests: Mike Howells, Ben Gordon and Brad Autumn.

- I. Call to Order by Chair Jane Parker at 4:30 p.m.**
- II. Review of the minutes from previous meetings** – Bissell motion, Stewart second to approve the minutes from the November and December 2010 meetings. Motion passed 14-0.
- III. Executive Director's Report**
 - a. Recognition of former Chairperson Martin Gutierrez for two years of service to the HRC.**

Bagneris personally thanked Martin for his leadership especially given the board's dealings with the rights of day laborers in New Orleans.
 - b. Day Laborers**

Bagneris said he met with Councilman Arnie Fielkow to discuss the matter. The HRC recommended that the first district court could handle the complaint caseload while the constable's office will handle the enforcement issue and move the cases along in the court. The cases will be held one day a month in the first district court. HRC members could monitor the court to make sure the proceedings move well. Bissell said that this came out of the listening sessions following Hurricane Katrina, which makes this an exciting issue to see addressed.

Messinger asked Bagneris how and to whom complaints will be filed. Bagneris said there is a once a week law clinic to show day laborers how to file their grievances. Ioup asked if the community knows about the clinic and their rights. In response, Gutierrez said the clinic, which is held each Thursday, often has about 20 to 25 cases filed each day the clinic is open.

c. Request for representatives of the Iberville Housing Development. Re. Discrimination by Ms. Georgetta Loup

Bagneris said the representatives need to submit in writing their request to the board, and they can be heard at the February meeting. Both sides were agreeable to this request, and they will return at the next meeting after filing their request.

d. Report on INLGO Conference: DADT

Bagneris said he attended a conference held by the International Association of Lesbian and Gay Officials on behalf of the city. He said it was an exciting experience.

e. Temple Sinai: MLK Celebration

Cohn informed the commission about the "Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." event on Friday, Jan. 14, which will feature Bagneris, Sybil Morial and Florence Schornstein.

f. MLK Activities for 2011

The city's annual MLK march will be held on Monday, Jan. 17 at 10 a.m.

g. A reflection from members of the HRC regarding induction and vision for the HRC in 2011.

Bagneris, at the request of Chairwoman Parker, went around the room asking what HRC members envision for the commission's future. Parker said she wants to get an idea of what the HRC's focus should be for 2011. In 2010, the HRC took on the problem of unruly behavior by public officials.

Bissell said she would like to reformat the 2010 workshop for public officials. Bagneris would like to hammer out the new vision first, before moving to reformat the workshop. Gutierrez echoed Bissell's comments about the importance of reviewing the 2010 refocus document.

Yanez suggested that the HRC could honor a university/group that has done a great deal of diversity work. She said she would like to encourage and praise people for their work. This honor could include universities, schools, non-profits, businesses or just individuals. Badon would like to see if the HRC could highlight those award winners on its TV show.

Cohn would like to look at what has happen in 50 years increments since the beginning of the American Civil War in 1861. Cohn said there are people in the community that could talk about the advances and shortfalls since the war including issues of diversity. Roaf said she thinks that Cohn's idea would be a wonderful way to get professors from other areas involved in the commission's efforts.

Georgette said the learning sessions were a big learning experience from a New Orleans point of view. She said it would be great to do a history piece on New Orleans especially related to the American Civil War period. Haywood said he recently obtained a DVD about Treme from 1865 to now. He said he feels that it is an enlightened history that the city needs to learn. Haywood said he will review it and talk more about it at the February meeting.

Parker asked HRC members to e-mail any resources to the e-list. Parker also suggested that Cohn and Ioup would be prime candidates to head up the history project if the commission chooses to move forward with it.

h. The selection of persons and their backgrounds at next meeting.

Bagneris asked the board in an effort to learn more about each board member that each HRC member contact another commission member and be prepared to give a two-minute presentation at the next meeting about that member's personal history. The following list is a breakdown of that list. Aqeel Salaam should call Rev. Haywood. Badon should call Parker. Bissell should call Roaf. Cohn will call Halm. Greenwood will call Lyman. Gutierrez will call Bissell. Haywood should call Greenwood. Ioup should call Salaam. Lyman will call Yanez. Messinger will call Tran. Parker will call Sams-Abiodun. Roaf will call Messinger. Sams-Abiodun will call Ioup. Stewart will call Cohn. Tran will call Stewart. Yanez should call Badon.

IV. Remarks by the Chairperson Jane Parker – None.

V. New Business – None.

VI. Announcements – None.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Halm, Secretary