

Human Rights Committee
October 5, 2009
Minutes

Members Present: Shirley Decker, Patty Csernai, Robert Newby, Elizabeth Husbands,
Lori Flynn Tyree, Sue Poindexter, Laura Gonzales, Carol Richardson

Members Absent: William Calhoun

Meeting called to order at 5:15 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

- Moved by Susan and seconded by Patty.

2. Public Comment

- John Dinse, Union Township Trustee and member of the Mount Pleasant Area Diversity Group stated that he was present to show support and is looking forward to working with the county on current and future issues.

3. Diversity Coordinator Report

- Met with superintendent Pius to introduce herself, the HRC and offer support and trainings to the school system.
- Training was provided for the Commission on Aging on the 21st of September and it was a success and the volunteers were really receptive to the information provided.
- Blossom distributed the brochure created for the HRC and additions were made for the official distribution on October 17, 2009 at the Disability Awareness Fair.

4. Old Business

a) Disability Awareness Month

- HRC will be present at the fair on October 17 to promote awareness for the committee.
- The HRC will be presenting a Soup and Substance on Wednesday, October 28, 2008 from 12-1.

b) HRC Appointment

- No appointments have been made thus far but they should be concluded at the Commissioners general Board meeting on October 6, 2009.

c) Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes Conference

- Three members were present from the HRC, Larry Burdick along with other diversity groups as well. The conference was held here in Michigan and their request was to ask those there to spearhead a crisis response group in their community to effectively attack the situation when it occurs. Will Westerfield will be contacting different people to get this response in progression as it will be an annual thing created to focus ahead.

5. New Business

Laura Gonzales

- Question: Are we achieving goals set forth on the website? One thing came to mind in regard to education and that is educating on the group and others as well.

Carol

- Suggested that we focused the next two meetings on the strategies that the HRC is going to implement in 2010. Within such meetings the HRC will map out exactly what we're going to do and constructing new goals.
- Question: Should the Soup & Substance provided by the HRC entail some relevant information pertaining to Disability Awareness month?
- It was stated that we can give our history background on how the HRC started off as a Disability based committee etc.,

Patti

- Asked if we had a banner or sign for the HRC. We did not have a banner so she decided to donate Plexiglas to the HRC for display purposes and will get quote estimates for a banner and name tags for the members of the committee for the next meeting.

Next meeting is November 2, 2009 at 5:15 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.