

**Meeting Date: September 12, 2011**  
Called to order: 5:15pm by Laura Gonzales

**Members Present:**

Laura Gonzales  
Elizabeth Husbands  
Robert Newby  
Susan Poindexter  
Mandy Wigren  
Maureen Eke  
Shirley Decker  
Raquel Fruh  
Jeannie Jackson  
Joe Albrecht—Intern

**Members Absent:**

Kira Gray  
Lisa Sovereign—excused

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**1. Welcome & Introduction of New Members**

Committee members, student intern Joe Albrecht, and guests were welcomed by Laura Gonzales, Chair.

**2. Approval of Agenda:**

The motion made by Susan Poindexter and seconded by Robert Newby to approve the agenda as presented was unanimously supported by the committee members.

**3. Public Comments:**

A report was made that two CMU students were asked to leave the IHOP restaurant for being lesbian. The student reporting did not want to release the names of the students. Jeannie Jackson recommended the students file a report with her office on campus. Jeannie stated that “while the incident happened outside of University authority, she could still listen and give advice to those students who are concerned, even if CMU authority could not be used to resolve the issue.” HRC members will further investigate and report back to the committee next month.

**4. Presentation by Charlie Farnum regarding the Human Rights Ordinance**

Universal Unitarian ([should read: Unitarian Universalist](#)) Group is [working](#) with a group of citizens to develop an Anti-discrimination Ordinance. The ordinance seeks to provide protection to all citizens in housing, public accommodations, and employment. Every city in MI with a major university has a non-discrimination ordinance except Mt Pleasant. The UU group is [requesting](#) the support of HRC for the creation of such an ordinance.

Maureen Eke recommends that the HRC co-sponsors and collaborates with the Universal Unitarian Group on the development of a Human Rights Ordinance in Mt. Pleasant. The motion was seconded by Jeannie Jackson and carried unanimously by the group.

Question was raised by Robert Newby as to the need/feasibility for an ordinance in the County? Should the UU group explore the relevance for a County Ordinance?

Question by Jeannie Jackson regarding the choice of the name of the Ordinance, Anti-discrimination rather than Human Rights Ordinance? The name was recommended by Equality Mi.

The next organizational meeting will be 9/19/11 and HRC members are invited and encouraged to attend.

### 3. **Approval of Minutes from previous meeting**

The minutes from last month's (date) meeting were approved with corrections. The motion to accept the minutes as corrected was made by Maureen Eke and seconded by Robert Newby. The motion was unanimously supported by the committee members present.

### 4. **Old Business:**

#### a) *Grad Student/HRC Intern Update:*

1. Graduate student Joe is currently working to on the HRC newsletter. The first edition will be distributed tonight. The newsletter will be a Quarterly paper and will contain information about the HRC and biographies of each of the current members, starting with Laura G.
2. He attended Mainstage and Get Acquainted Day. The Rack Cards were available for distribution for Get Acquainted Day.
3. He is still working to find potential grants.

#### b) *Rack Cards & Banner*

1. They are in and here, take as many as you can to distribute freely throughout the community. They will be stored by Christy Cotter in the Isabella County Administrator's Office. Christy would like an electronic copy to distribute to County staff.

#### c) *MI Round Table*

1. LT meeting this month on 9/21. Diversity Block Party on August 26<sup>th</sup> was a tremendous success. Next community meeting will be 10/20 and the Strategic plan and DVD will be released to the community.

#### d) *Isabella Co Committee on Hate Crimes*

1. Not in our-Town will be premiered on PBS on 9/21, check local listings for times. Jeannie Jackson has requested hate crime numbers for Isabella County.

#### e) *HRC Memberships:*

1. A motion by Jeannie Jackson and seconded by Maureen Eke to recommend to the County Commission to have Elizabeth Husbands' appointment changed from Tribal Representative to Education Representative. The motion was unanimously carried by members present.

#### f) *Human Rights Conference at CMU*

1. The conference has been consolidated into two days due to scheduling conflicts at CMU. A motion was made by Robert Newby and seconded by Mandy Wigren to request to have registration fees for members who would

like to attend the Human Rights Conference for an amount not to exceed \$500.00. Members wishing to attend need to let Laura Gonzales know by next Monday. The motion was carried unanimously by all voting members. Maureen Eke abstained.

**7. New Business:**

a. SCIT Fall Two-percent Grant Requests

1. Maureen Eke worked on the grant proposal and resubmitted it according to the deadline. Included were two films related to Native American populations and an open house as well as a request for funding for a Diversity Coordinator for approximately 60k. Laura Gonzales will forward a copy to the membership. All grant proposals will be reviewed on 9/20 at 3:30, the meeting is open to the public.

**Announcements:**

No announcements.

Tonight's meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Submitted by Elizabeth Husbands, Secretary