

Members Present

Elizabeth Husbands
Laura Gonzales
Jeannie Jackson
Robert Newby
Mandy Wigren
Shirley Decker
Raquel Fruh
Maureen Eke
David Ling
Amy Shawboose

Members Absent

Lisa Sovereen
Joe Albrecht, Intern—excused (class conflict)

1. Welcome & Introduction of New Members

The meeting was called to order by Laura Gonzales, Committee Chair at 5:21 PM. Committee members and guests were welcomed by her.

2. Approval of Agenda:

The motion made by Bob Newby and seconded by Shirley Decker to accept the agenda as presented was unanimously supported by the committee members.

3. Public Comments:

No public comments were presented at tonight's meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2011 Meeting:

A motion to accept the minutes with the following corrections was made by David Ling and seconded by Maureen Eke. The motion was unanimously supported by the committee members. The corrections are 1) change the date on the heading to reflect the correct meeting date (from 11/7 to 12/5) and 2) "add excused" to Susan Poindexter's name to reflect that her absence from the meeting was excused.

5. Old Business:

a. Grad Student/HRC Intern Update: Joe Albrecht (presented by Laura)

1. *Facebook Account*-Joe A. is still working with the County IT Department to move forward with this and get the Facebook page up and running.
2. *Grants*—Joe A. has provided the link to the Mt Pleasant Community Foundation webpage. Please review and identify possible grants for which we may apply.
3. *Newsletter*--Joe A is looking for suggestions/ideas for the next issue.
4. *Hours*—Joe's internship hours will be completed in April. When he completes his hours we will no longer have an Intern, or someone to do this work for us.

b. 2012 Meeting Schedule: Laura Gonzales

1. Meeting schedules were included in tonight's meeting packet. Please note that The September meeting will be on the second Monday, rather than first, due to Labor Day. If for some reason you are unable to attend a meeting please notify Laura (ASAP), so that she will know if we will have enough members in attendance to form a quorum. Laura G. can be

reached at Lmgonzales1998@yahoo.com, or via her cell phone, if needed. (Phone number can be found on the HRC Membership list)

c. *Mt. Pleasant/MI Roundtable: Elizabeth Husbands*

1. The next community forum will be on January 26, 2012 at 7:00pm and will be held at Centennial Hall, downtown Mt Pleasant. The meeting's focus will be on the Law Enforcement Group's accomplishments thus far. Willard Walker will be presenting about some of his insights after many years of working with a variety of community change models, including Citizen's Review Boards. Guests are welcomed and encouraged. Refreshments will be served.
2. We are also looking to increase membership and participation of two groups, Law Enforcement and Business & Commerce. Interested individuals can be directed to contact Elizabeth Husbands.

d. *Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes/Isabella Co Community Hate Crimes & Bias Incident Response Team: Raquel Fruh*

Raquel was unable to attend this month's meeting, however she continues to work on the Response manual.

e. *Tribal 2% Request: Laura Gonzales*

1. Does HRC want to submit a grant request for the Spring disbursement? Maureen Eke recommends that the request for funding of the Diversity Coordinator position be removed, and that the grant be re submitted.
2. Concerns regarding the resubmission of a grant proposal include; possible replication of services, lack of feedback from the funding source makes it difficult to really revise or tailor the grant.
3. Submit grant requests for projects/programs that include the Diversity Coordinator position.
4. HRC to submit more than one grant request.
5. Tribal Council's current focus is on the impact of proposed "action" on the Tribal community.
6. Proposal by David Ling (see attached draft), of research project that could be completed with the aid of 2% funds.
7. The notion recommending that the HRC submit at least one 2% grant application made by Susan Poindexter and seconded by Jeanie Jackson to submit a 2% Grant application. It was unanimously supported by the committee members present. Maureen Eke and David Ling have agreed to draft grant proposals for membership to review at next HRC meeting.
8. If members have ideas of other projects to seek funding for, please complete a one page written narrative, and present your ideas to the group during the meeting.

f. *Treatment of GBLT students—Laura Gonzales*

1. Laura Gonzales shared with the group her plan to try to meet with the manager(s) at the Mt Pleasant IHOP since she has had multiple requests regarding this issue. Elizabeth H will accompany her to the meeting once it has been scheduled.

g. *Suggestions where Banner & HRC items can be used*

1. This will be a standing item. Committee members need to be spreading the word.

h. *Soup and Substance Presentation at CMU about HRC*

1. Elizabeth Husbands will check with Ulana about an early February date to present.

i. *Non-discrimination Ordinance: Laura Gonzales*

1. Information from Norma Bailey, requesting continued support by signing the on-line petition and by sharing the information with everyone you may know,
2. City Council work session with Legal council (public & televised) discussing the Non-discrimination Ordinance will be happening in mid-February.
3. City Council meeting, with discussion about the Non-discrimination Ordinance, will take place in late February. It will be broadcast live, channels 96 & 26, members are encouraged to attend both meetings!

6. New Business:

1. James' Story: Presented by Raquel Fruh, James is an Isabella Co resident with a criminal history, felony offences with CSC. He and his wife were "asked" to move out of their apartment due to his felony record. He became involved with the Potter's House, (a local place of worship). They assisted him by providing housing and employment opportunities. Member of the congregation (Billy & Alice learned of his history and begin telling his story to the Pastor and other members of the congregation. They also went to the Morning Sun and attempted to get an article published. Is this a situation that falls within the purview of the HRC?
 - a. Recommendations were: consult with an attorney re: the violation and the legal issues related to someone with his background/history.
 - b. Contact the Department of Civil Rights (Lansing)
 - c. Complete an Incident report form: this would provide the HRC with the information needed to make recommendation

6. Announcements:

No announcements

7. Adjournment:

Tonight's meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM by a motion by Bob Newby and seconded by Jeannie Jackson. The motion was unanimously carried by all members present.

Submitted by Elizabeth Husbands, Secretary
February 03, 2012