

Members Present

Shirley Decker
Maureen Eke
Raquel Fruh
Laura Gonzales
Nicholas Hanes
Robert Newby
Susan Poindexter
Amy Shawboose
Anne Swift

Members Absent

Elizabeth Husbands - excused
David Ling - excused
Joshua Hudson - excused

1. Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was called to order by Laura Gonzales at 5:20 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Shirley Decker moved to approve the agenda and Nick Hanes seconded her motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

3. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

4. Approval of August 5 Meeting Minutes

Susan Poindexter moved to approve the minutes and Anne Swift seconded the motion.

5. Old Business

a. Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2% Grant Funding on Study of Micro-Aggressions

Amy Shawboose reported on the study. On October 14th there will be a presentation of the study at the Soup and Substance. Maureen Eke is concerned about Human Rights Committee (HRC) visibility. The micro-aggression project commissioned consultants and the report was written. Maureen wanted to define the role of the consultant and stress that the HRC spearhead further presentations. Amy Shawboose stated that the presentations will be done by the HRC and future presentations are yet to be determined. Robert Newby sees the consultants as staff for the HRC and not surpassing the HRC. Maureen agrees, but the presentation of the material should be done by the HRC. The committee agreed with Maureen's point that the HRC should be in the forefront of the study, and that they will continue to collaborate with the Ziibiwing Center.

b. Inmate Information from the Sheriff

Justin Smith met with Bob Newby and Laura Gonzales. The inmate data is unusable because it was summary data. Bob Newby thinks we should go back to the original letter, and convince the courts and sheriff to collect the data in such a way that it will be usable. He hopes that we can encourage Isabella County to collect data similar to Kalamazoo.

c. 2014 Two Percent (2%) Budget Request

The HRC does not know if they will be funded to continue with the dissemination of the study results, but they will complete their work either way.

d. HRC Intern

Josh Simon introduced himself to the HRC. He will be starting the newsletter again. The committee feels it should be done bi-monthly and after a year it should be quarterly. Copies of this newsletter should be placed around town. Maureen Eke will be the first one featured. Josh Simon will also look into the website and Facebook page. Amy Shawboose suggested that Josh Simon help with the

marketing of the micro-aggression study. Maureen Eke suggested that the HRC have its own e-mail account. Josh Simon will also research grants for the HRC and create a summary with deadline dates. Shirley Decker suggested that Josh Simon talk to Amanda Schafer, Executive Director of the Mt. Pleasant Community Foundation, about grants. Susan Poindexter thinks that we should define some projects first and then apply for grants.

e. By-Laws

Laura Gonzales handed out a copy of the reviewed by-laws. Members recommended a few modifications including adding a sentence on each committee member representing HRC in at least one community event per year. Also, it was determined that the last sentence of the by-laws regarding resignation of members needing approval by the HRC would be deleted. Laura will make these changes and bring it to the next meeting for approval.

f. Isabella/MI Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion

The discussion was tabled until next meeting.

g. Visibility of the Human Rights Committee

Maureen discussed the upcoming Human Rights, Literature, the Arts, and Social Sciences International Conference at Soaring Eagle. She has some workshops in mind to recommend for committee members to attend. She will send program information to Laura via e-mail, who will forward to the rest of the committee. Laura has requested funds for each HRC member to attend the conference.

h. Budget

The discussion was tabled until next meeting

i. Other Human Rights Committees

Laura discussed other areas of focus for HRC -- LGBTQ and Disability Rights. Maureen proposed to target one area at this time to avoid overwhelming HRC. A Sub-committee will be formed. The Disability Awareness Expo at CMU is on October 12th from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Education and Human Services building. HRC will have representation at this. This topic will be at the top of next meeting's agenda.

6. New Business

There is no new business.

7. Announcements

There are no announcements.

8. Adjournment

Amy Shawboose motioned to adjourn and Nick Hanes seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned 6:50 p.m.

Submitted by Raquel Fruh, Secretary
September 12, 2013