

Isabella Co Human Rights Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: December 01, 2014

Called to order: 5:20pm

Members Present

Kevin Daum
Maureen Eke, Chair
Laura Gonzales
Wendy Hovey
Elizabeth Husbands, Secretary
Robert Newby
Sue Poindexter, Vice-Chair
Amy Shawboose
Anne Swift

Excused Absentees

Shirley Decker

County Staff

David Ling

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Eke.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda as amended (added request regarding Micro Aggression study & Elliott Larson Act) by Susan Poindexter and seconded by David Ling. The motion was carried unanimously by the group.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments made by the audience members present.

4. Approval of November 2014 Meeting Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by David Ling and seconded by Bob Newby. The motion was carried unanimously by the group.

5. Old Business: ALPACT (Guest: John Golaszewski, MDCR)

Maureen Eke spoke with John Golaszewski during the Michigan Response to Hate Crimes (MIAACH) conference in East Lansing. Maureen Eke and Elizabeth Husbands were able to attend the ALPACT meeting during the MIAACH conference. Key concepts for ALPACT are:

- Building trust relationships before hand to help minimize fallout during stressful situations
- Initially established in 1991 (under the Clinton administration) created to address the issue of racial profiling in Southeast Michigan
- A forum where potentially volatile situations & options for resolution can be explored
- Helps make law enforcement more sensitive to the needs of the community as they keep the idea of community responsibility & the issues that are growing/ brewing in the forefront.
- A venue for community response to difficult situations

Laura Gonzalez and Wendy Hovey expressed their support for moving forward on the development of a Central Mi ALPACT.

Questions regarding the purpose/ goals of ALPACT: How do they fit with the greater goals of the HRC? How is ALPACT different from the ICHRC Law Enforcement sub-committee? Is there a need for another organization to assist us achieve items on our agendas? Maureen Eke will contact John Golaszewski and request information regarding the role of an ALPACT and the benefits to the HRC of involvement in an ALPACT.

6. Reports:

a. *HRC student intern*

The job description has been updated to reflect the current functions and responsibilities. The Intern will report to the Chair or the Vice Chair of the HRC. An important addition has been the requirement that the individual attend the monthly HRC meeting as well as participate in the community events/ activities. Once completed Maureen Eke will forward the information to the County Administrator's office to be advertised and/or posted. Once the intern is hired the individual is expected to work through the summer.

b. *Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act*

A meeting was held on 11/12 convened by Norma Bailey and Shannon Jolliff-Dettore to gather community supporters for marriage equality in view of the decision to uphold the ban on marriage in MI. The HRC is being asked to support a resolution favoring expansion of the ELCRA to include the rights of the LGBTQ community. The HRC needs to be cautious that we are not speaking on behalf of the County when we act. Margaret McAvoy recommends that rather than a resolution we either write individual letters of support or the HRC draft a letter of support for the issue.

A motion that the HRC write a letter of support in favor of expanding the ELCRA to include the rights of the LGBTQ community be sent to the State legislators was made by Laura Gonzales and seconded by Kevin Daum. The motion was carried unanimously. Maureen Eke and Laura Gonzales will write a letter of support to be signed by HRC members and Maureen Eke will forward the letter to the appropriate persons.

c. *End of year report to County Commissioners (Dec. 2)*

Update the Board of Commissioners on the highlights and activities of the HRC. Maureen Eke will be presenting 12/02 at 3:30. Committee members are encouraged to attend as a show of support.

d. *HRC activities—end of year*

Laura Gonzalez has prepared an extensive list of the events and activities we have completed over the course of the last year.

e. *NAGPRA*

Maureen Eke attended the Repatriation/ Reburial Ceremonies on Wednesday 11/19 for the remains of Tribal members who were being returned to the community and recommitted (buried) in the Tribal cemetery. The ceremonies were held at the Ziibiwing center.

f. *HRC rack cards*

No update.

g. *Michigan Hate Crimes conference*

The conference was attended by Maureen Eke, Laura Gonzales, Anne Swift, and Elizabeth Husbands.

h. *Request regarding the Micro Aggression Study*

Maureen Eke received a letter from a CMU Bachelor's level Social Work student requesting permission to use the Micro Aggression Study to conduct secondary analysis. Eke has requested clarification from the student regarding the specific nature of her work, the planned use of the results of the work and the timeframe. Eke reminded her of the sensitive nature of the work and the involvement of human subjects, which warrants special consideration.

The discussion centered on the data the student intends (would like) to use. Since the study results have been released to the general public she is free to use that information as she wishes. However, if she is requesting access to the raw data she will need to work with the Ziibiwing and meet the protocols they have established.

7. Sub-committee updates:

a. *Study of Micro-Aggressions—Education sub-committee (Laura Gonzales/David Ling)*

The sub-committee continues to work to develop the training/ PowerPoint. Maureen Eke spent several hours at the Ziibiwing working with the staff to select images that can be used in the PowerPoint presentation.

b. *Micro-aggression study budget (Laura Gonzales)*

Youth Tribal Council accepted the request to develop the logo; data has been officially transferred to Ziibiwing; Elizabeth Husbands is working to develop the budget as well as the call for proposals for trainers.

c. *Disability (Anne Swift)*

Anne Swift, Jim Moreno, Laura Gonzales, Teri Cady (by speakerphone) and Denny Adams met to discuss the presentations to the County Commission.

8. New Business:

a. *HRC By-Laws*

Maureen Eke and Margaret McAvoy will meet to review and discuss.

b. *Future events/programs*

a. Dickens Parade: A motion was made by Sue Poindexter and seconded by Laura Gonzalez to spend up to \$50.00 on the purchase of candy for parade. Amy Shawboose, Elizabeth Husbands, Kevin Daum, and Maureen Eke will attend the parade.

b. MKL Peace March & Breakfast conversation; Maureen Eke will participate on the march; HRC members should begin thinking about events to participate in during Black History month.

9. Announcements

- Tribal presentation on Policing your Neighborhood Thursday 3:30 – 5:30 at the SERC Ballroom; Amy Shawboose will forward the details to the group via email.

- 12/18 MPADG will be holding is Holiday event at the COA; Bob Newby will email the information/ details to the group.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned Maureen Eke at 7:43. The motion was carried unanimously.