

# Isabella Co Human Rights Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: April 06, 2015

Called to order: 5:25pm

## Members Present

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

## Excused Absentees

### County Staff

David Ling

### 1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Maureen Eke after a count was taken to ensure that there were enough members present to constitute a quorum.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by David Ling and seconded by Laura Gonzales as amended. The motion was carried unanimously by committee members present.

### 3. General Public Comment

It was recommended that Twitter be used as a tool to reach our Gen X population.

### 4. Approval of January 2015 Meeting Minutes

Correction of Resolution: endorse the chair of the HRC to pursue the idea of creating an ALPACT with the leaders of the Law Enforcement and Community; support utilizing HRC funds for lunch with those people". A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended by David Ling and seconded by Kevin Daum. The motion was carried unanimously by committee members present.

A request was made to have the minutes converted to the currently common standard by the Secretary; many thanks to Wendy Hovey for taking the minutes during the secretary's absence last month.

### 5. Old Business: ALPACT

Maureen Eke spoke with several community members including one police officer, a UU church member, and university faculty regarding the possibility of the creation of the ALPACT. They were all supportive of the development of a type of citizen and community coalition. There is community interest in the development of an ALPACT, perhaps due to current series of national racial crises. Maureen Eke will talk to more community members. She is waiting for the names of some UU church members who might be interested in joining the group. She will be involved with

the development of this group on a personal level with or without the support of the HRC. Her recommendation is that the HRC be on the forefront of the development of this coalition.

## 6. Reports:

Chair's report:

### a. *Webpage:*

The HRC now has an updated webpage with all archived minutes and documents ([www.isabellacounty.org/dept/hrc](http://www.isabellacounty.org/dept/hrc)) and an active email address ([humanrightscommittee@isabellacounty.org](mailto:humanrightscommittee@isabellacounty.org)). The County's IT staff will manage/administer the webpage and Facebook page. If committee members have information or documents that need to be posted, please forward them to Maureen Eke; she will then forward items on the County IT staff for posting.

The group discussed access to the Facebook page, including the distinction between members posting items and commenting on posts or documents.

Copy of brochure on the website is outdated and should be replaced with the rack card, which provides similar information. Laura Gonzales made motion, Amy Shawboose (seconded) to remove old copy of the brochure from the website and replace it with the rack card. Motion carried unanimously.

### b. *Rack Card*

The rack cards are in and in the office. Several were given away at the CMU Pow-wow.

### c. *HRC Graduate student Intern Job Description*

Four applications were received; three are very viable candidates. The Exec. Committee will be scheduling interviews on Wednesday and Friday this week.

We also received an inquiry from MSU regarding the possibility of placing a Social Justice student intern with the HRC next year. Maureen Eke has responded.

### d. *HRC Activities:*

*CMU PRIDE week events are scheduled for 4/12*

### e. *Incidence Report Form*

Has been updated to include all protected classes to be consistent with Federal, State, County and Township language. The language now reads:

"Anyone in Isabella Co who believes that he/she has been discriminated against on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identification, misdemeanor arrest record, height, weight, familial status, citizenship status, genetic information, AIDS/HIV status, a physical or mental disability may file a formal Incident Report Form with the Human Rights Form."

## 7. Sub-committee updates:

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

Consultant/Trainer proposal is now on the website; please share with your contacts. How many HRC members would like to participate in the upcoming trainings? We have some dates

for scheduled presentations: 4/13 - MP City Police (Kevin Daum-15 min); 4/15 - ICRT ED Committee (Maureen Eke – 30 min); 4/20 Council of Government (David Ling 30- 45 min); 4/22 - Union Township (Laura Gonzales- 30 min)

David Ling will close the first grant out by zero-ing out the minor balance. Maureen Eke requested a final report on the grant to be submitted to our funders and also placed on our webpage. David Ling will prepare a final report to submit to Tribal Council.

*b. Disability (Laura Gonzalez for Anne Swift)*

The sub-committee developed the “draft” letterhead for the HRC and submitted a letter of support for the grant Coldwater Lake Family Park playground/ playscape.

*c. Law Enforcement (Bob Newby)*

Attempting to schedule the meeting with Bill Yagley.

**8. New Business:**

Significant discussion was held regarding the issue of the dis-enrollment of tribal members and the discontent of many Tribal members. There have been Tribal members who have come to the MPADG meeting and have voiced their concerns regarding the discrimination within Tribal organization. The question for us was whether we are obligated to address such complaints from Tribal members who present us with issues over which we have no jurisdiction. What is our (the HRC’s) role in intervention when it comes to Tribal/ Native Americans in this County experiencing discrimination within Tribal operations? What is Tribal Council’s understanding of what we do? The Tribe is a sovereign nation and we do not have any jurisdiction within the Tribe. It was recommended (Robert Newby) that we have “conversations” with Tribal members to develop protocols for handling potential situations in a proactive manner. Amy Shawboose will take the lead in setting up these conversations. Maureen Eke, Elizabeth Husbands, and Bob Newby will work on this.

**9. Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Amy Shawboose and seconded by Anne Swift at 7:24pm.