

Isabella Co Human Rights Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: March 7, 2016

Called to order: 5:17pm

Members Present

David Ling, County Commissioner
Laura Gonzales
Maureen Eke, Chair
Bob Newby
Wendy Hovey
Patrick Lawton, Intern
Anne Swift
Amy Shawboose
Sue Poindexter

Excused Absences

Elizabetha Husbands, Vice-Chair
Shirley Decker
Shuna Stevens, Secretary

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Maureen Eke.

2. Approval of Agenda

Amy Shawboose moved to accept the agenda. Sue Poindexter seconded.

3. General Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Approval of February 2016 Meeting Minutes

Minutes will be reviewed and approved digitally via email.

5. Reports:

Chair's Report

- The committee will consider changing the time for HRC monthly meetings. Two potential times are 4pm and 6:15pm.
- The presentation video needs to be worked with at MAC 3 TV. HRC is awaiting openings in the station's schedule to have changes made.
- Health care problems have delayed the business card/ letterhead designer's ability to meet. He will contact Elizabeth when he can.
- The Calender has been updated by Laura, and members should sign up if interested in spring events.
- Justine and Patricia Young have received legal aid and are looking to get a new therapy dog. Maureen will continue to provide aid in what ways she can to the Young family. A discussion regarding unethical housing practices and how the HRC should respond followed. Some members are concerned that these violations to human liberties have assumed as pattern in the community. As many members pointed out, the HRC is not authorized to enforce law, our main mission is to monitor for rights violations and advocate. With the Young case, the HRC heard complaints and notified legal aid to assist the family. The committee decided that an annual report to the County Commissioners should include the

Young Case and how the HRC followed up. In this way the community at-large will be aware that the incidents are being addressed and may be more amenable to come forward with their own concerns. The letter/report will be drafted and sent to committee members before being sent to the County Commissioners. The implementation of a documentation process is under-way for these incidents, as they may appear in the future.

Education Subcommittee

- The permission slip for micro-aggression has been revised and reworded. Since young people cannot consent to being video-graphed, they must be omitted.
- The subcommittee met and decided on modifications to the presentation format (powerpoint).
- The powerpoint slides have been reviewed to refine them to only the essential.
- Presentation scheduled for the Kiwanis Club in April.
- The subcommittee grant is \$1168.08.

Law Enforcement

- Black Lives Matter is meeting to discuss police reforms. Next month members will meet with HRC to discuss recommendations to the commissioners in adopting these reforms.
- The confederate flag letter is approved and ready to be sent.

Disability Committee

- Committee met Friday to discuss downtown's overall accessibility for the disabled. A spring-summer parking study will offer the opportunity to make recommendations regarding the transportation system.
- There is an 8-hour mental health first aid course available, being taught to law enforcement and education professionals.

6. New Business:

- Discussion resumed from last meeting regarding the application of the county's 2% grant for a Diversity and Human Rights Day. Since summer fest is no longer providing a venue for families to celebrate in Mount Pleasant, there is a need in the summer and fall for community events.
- Strategic Planning for the next years was also discussed. Setting goals for the next 3 years and pursuing them may keep the organization more on track with attaining long-term achievements. For example, what can the HRC do to improve the community in the next 10-years?

7. Announcements

- The Black Lives Matter group will be holding an open forum next Tuesday in the Gold Room, University Center, CMU at 7pm.

8. Adjournment

Amy Shawboose made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Laura Gonzales seconded at 6:55 pm.