

Isabella Co Human Rights Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: February 1, 2016

Called to order: 5:19pm

Members Present

David Ling, County Commissioner
Laura Gonzales
Shuna Stevens
Bob Newby
Wendy Hovey
Kevin Daum
Patrick Lawton, Intern
Elizabetha Husbands, Vice-Chair
Shirley Decker
Anne Swift

Excused Absences

Amy Shawboose
Maureen Eke, Chair
Sue Poindexter

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Elizabeth Husbands.

2. Approval of Agenda

David Ling moved to accept the agenda as amended. Shuna Stevens Seconded.

3. General Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Approval of January 2016 Meeting Minutes

Kevin Daum moved to accept the minutes as amended. Laura Gonzales seconded.

5. Reports:

Chair's Report

- The chair will be traveling to the City of Flint this Saturday to deliver water and water filter donations and show solidarity with the community. If anyone wishes to go with her she can bring passengers and can be contacted via phone.
- Members attended the MLK Day brunch and Kevin Daum marched behind the HRC banner.
- The related events throughout the MLK week at CMU, including the Black Lives Matter forum and SOMA presentation were also attended by HRC members.
- The presentation video needs to be worked with at MAC 3 TV. HRC is awaiting openings in the station's schedule to have to 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. Ann has

made contact with Terri Katie from Disability Network to see if Patricia and Justine are receiving the support they need.

Education Subcommittee

- The subcommittee met and decided on modifications to the presentation format (powerpoint).
- The letter regarding presentation opportunities was reviewed and discussed. Amendments were agreed on.
- The budget has not changed since the last meeting.

Law Enforcement

- The issue of a citizen review board is complicated because there are two separate agreements between agencies impacting the overall public safety situation in the county. One includes the 5 agencies operating in the vicinity of Mount Pleasant, the other several counties in Northern Michigan.
- Bob Newby met several officers and interim commissioner Rutger to discuss bodycams and this review board. David and Bob will follow up on these communication channels.
- The body cams are being adopted by many groups, including tribal ops, and as has been argued by statistics, they protect municipalities from frivolous lawsuits.
- Next month the HRC will discuss facilitating a civilian review and try to coordinate with the Black Lives Matter group on this process.

Disability Committee – Committee will meet Friday and updates will be made next month.

6. New Business:

7. Announcements

- The 2% allocations for spring and summer 2016 have to be made to the county by Wednesday February 17th. The amount must be in excess of \$5,000. There was discussion of proposing a summer community diversity celebration. Summerfest is no longer happening to provide this mid-summer gathering that brings communities together. An allusion was made to the neighborhood porch parties that employ food and music to get community members out and talking.
- Friday David will be submitting an article that he co-authored to the Journal of Sociological Inquiry. He is looking for feedback on the language of the piece, and will send a copy for HRC review. The article discusses issues of discrimination, micro-aggression, and the discomfort generated by the rise of new social and class groups among established groups.

8. Adjournment

Bob Newby made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Laura Gonzales seconded at 6:37 pm.