

Human Rights Committee (HRC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 1, 2012

Members Present

Shirley Decker
Maureen Eke
Raquel Fruh
Laura Gonzales
David Ling
Robert Newby
Susan Poindexter
Anne Swift

Members Absent

Elizabeth Husbands - Excused
Jeannie Jackson-Excused
Amy Shawboose - Excused

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order and members were welcomed by Laura Gonzales, Committee Chair, at 5:20 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Additions to the agenda are that Raquel Fruh will talk about past posted minutes under Old Business. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Bob Newby and seconded by Anne Swift. The motion was unanimously supported by the committee members.

3. Public Comment

No public comments were presented at the meeting.

4. Approval of September 10, 2012 Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes as corrected was made by David Ling and seconded by Shirley Decker. The recommended corrections were as follows: Under Section 5a third line, change the word *Researcher* to *Trainer/Consultant*. Under Section 5a sixth line, place a comma after *Daniels* and add "a CMU grad student," Under Section 5b Title, eliminate the word *Form*. Under Section 5b first bulletin erase the word *the*, and add *an HRC*. Under Section 5b first bulletin second line, add a comma after HRC and add "concerning a non-response to a recent citizen complaint," Under section 5b second bulletin erase "Complainant has not completed the Police Department's Citizen Complaint Form. However," Capitalize *as*, place a comma after HRC, eliminate *she* and add *the complainant*. Under Section 5b fourth bullet - this bullet should be made Section 5c and Section 5c should be modified to 5d, and all other sections should be modified to fit the new order.

5. Old Business

a. 2% Grant Funding on the Study of Micro-Aggression Acts

The subcommittee gave the minutes to the committee. During their meeting, procedural work was done on defining responsibilities. David Ling will keep track of the spending and Amy Shawboose will continue to take notes. Both David and Amy were debating on being co-signers. Elizabeth Husbands and Amy will do public relations. During an interview process for interviewers, David and Bob agreed on hiring Mary Senter, while Amy did not give her accord. Amy was uncomfortable with this decision since in the Tribal culture a consensus is sought rather than majority rule. David Ling stated that he would try to be more conscientious of this difference. Maureen Eke asked if having two signers would increase fiscal responsibility and David stated that it would. Maureen encouraged the subcommittee to have two co-signers. David Ling added that the subcommittee will give money per interview and Tim Dolehanty, County Administrator, is generating contracts. Receipts will be attached and everything

financial is going to be worked with the County Administrator's Office. Vendors will give receipts and price estimates for gifts. Laura Gonzales encourages those who are interested to join the Sub-committee and that questions are welcomed. David Ling said that the Sub-committee is yet to contact Shannon Martin and they are anxious to do so in order to meet the deadline for the Oct. Tribal Observer Newsletter. He suggested that other social networks should also be pursued. David Ling had coffee with Frank Cloutier, Director of Public Relations at the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and asked about the tribe's attitude on the Micro-aggression Study. Tribal Council is aware and wants to see this kind of work presented to the community. Frank gave positive feedback, but questioned why the HRC did not go to the Tribal Council to seek an HRC appointee. David explained that in previous years the Tribe had not responded to such a request and that the HRC acted under that history.

b. Incident Report Form

Laura contacted the complainant, who had a meeting on September 4, 2012, with Captain Paul Lauria of the Mt. Pleasant Police Department. They met for an hour to discuss her concerns. Regarding the officer stopping her son, they agreed to disagree on whether it was racial profiling. On the second incident, the Captain conceded that they did not verify the address between North and South Harris St. and they did not read the description carefully. Instead of looking for a white male as the picture indicated, the police officers were questioning a black male. The police officer scrutinized her son's state of Michigan issued ID. The complainant feels this was unnecessary and was discontent with the action. The Captain and Kathie Grinzinger, Mt. Pleasant City Manager, have been invited to attend the November 5th HRC Meeting.

c. Information from Isabella County Sheriff's Office

Laura Gonzales filed a Freedom of Information Request Form at the Isabella County Sheriff's department regarding the request for inmate data. Tom Recker, the County Jail Administrator, called Laura to clarify the request. He explained that the department does not collect marital status or recidivism rates of those arrested and asked if the HRC wanted that information. The cost would be thousands of dollars to do the work to try to get the information. The cost to receive the information for the remaining data requested for the last five years is \$92.00. Laura agreed to that and Tom said he would send a bill to her. After it was paid, he could do the report and then will send it to Laura. The HRC will review the data to see if there are any trends in disparate treatment and will be able to determine what to do once the information is received.

d. HRC Showcase in the County Building

Laura Gonzales reported that Amy Shawboose and Elizabeth Husbands continue to work on the showcase. Amy's husband is working on the pictures. HRC members need to turn in their short biographies to Elizabeth.

e. Budget Request Update

Laura Gonzales stated that the new budget year begins October 1st, 2012. David Ling added that the books do not close until next month.

f. MI Response to Hate Crimes Conference

Anne Swift reported that the conference was invaluable and shared a statistics handout. Bob Newby said that he would send links on *Who killed Vincent Chin* and *Sundown Towns*.

g. Mid-Michigan Sector Collaborative Meeting Update

Report was tabled since Jeannie Jackson was unable to attend the meeting.

h. Increasing visibility of HRC

- i. Raquel Fruh reported that the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Health Fair will take place on October 30. Maureen Eke agreed to help. David Ling motioned for approval of funds of a maximum of \$150.00 to be allotted for the fair. Susan Poindexter seconded the motion and it was unanimously supported.
- ii. Jeannie Jackson needs volunteers for the Disabilities Fair on October 13th. Laura Gonzales encouraged the committee to review her e-mail and respond to Jeannie's request for help.
- iii. The HRC decided not to participate in the CMU 2012 Homecoming Parade.
- iv. Maureen Eke wants to participate in the HRC Soup and Substance presentation at CMU, which should occur in Spring Semester 2013. Laura reported that Elizabeth Husbands was contacting the CMU staff to get HRC on their schedule.
- v. The CMU Pow Wow will take place in Spring 2013 and Laura Gonzales will get information.

i. Union Township Human Rights Ordinance

Laura Gonzales reminded HRC members that the next Union Township Board Meeting is October 10 and encouraged them to show support by attending the meeting. David Ling motioned to endorse the proposed Human Rights Ordinance and Maureen Eke seconded the motion. It was unanimously supported.

j. Minutes

Raquel Fruh noticed that some of the previous HRC Meeting minutes had not been amended and were published on the website. Raquel motioned for the January 9, 2012 Minutes to be amended for web publication and for corrections to be made (names crossed out in a particular section). The motion was seconded by Maureen Eke and unanimously supported.

6. New Business

- a. Laura Gonzales reminded HRC members to review the HRC By-laws. They will be on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. The By-laws are on the HRC website and are dated 2008.

7. Announcements

- a. Maureen Eke will send a link on the information for Disabilities Week at CMU. Also, she announced that Stanley Fish is coming to CMU on October 18th.

8. Adjournment

Maureen Eke motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Bob Newby and it was unanimously carried by all members present.

Submitted by Raquel Fruh, At-Large Representative
October 2, 2012