

ISABELLA CO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Date: December 5, 2016

Called to order: 5:25 PM

Members Present:

Maureen Eke – Chair
Elizabeth Husbands – Vice Chair
David Ling- County Commissioner
Laura Gonzales
Anne Swift
Karen Rau
Wendy Hovey
Sue Poindexter
Kristin Lalonde
Shuna Stevens, Secretary

Excused Absences:

Amy Shawboose

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Maureen Eke at 5:25pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Husbands moved to approve the agenda. Ling seconded, motion passed.

3. Approval of November 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Wendy motioned to approve the minutes as amended, Karen seconded, motion passed.

4. General Public Comment

No public comment

5. Old Business

- Ling talked to Margaret about budget and learned that many other departments had received deductions. The HRC is the only committee with a budget. Ling expressed disappointment that news of budget cut was not disclosed to the HRC.
- Stevens reported that the Christmas parade went well.
- Gonzales reported that the rack cards are on the fast-track to completion. Business card error has been corrected. She talked with Jessica Jarosiewicz about storage for HRC materials.

- Husbands reported that the external hard drive has been purchased and the micro-aggressions presentation is on it. Stevens can complete her training now. Eke added that the subcommittee wants to review and edit the video for training purposes.

6. Reports

A. Chair's Report

- Eke asserted that the HRC would be involved with MLK Day March.
- Eke suggested that all HRC members look for grant opportunities in the interest of not burdening one person. If HRC budget continues to drop, other sources of funding will be needed.
- Eke indicated that January 20th would not work for the HRLASS Human Trafficking Conference because Students Against Slavery was not able to receive funding. The first Friday of March or April are the new tentative dates for the conference. There were funds from the prior HRLASS conference left to fund this one. Eke noted that HRLASS will be on campus this year because classroom space is expense-free.

B. Community Education Subcommittee

- Hovey discussed the Isabella Community Collaborative and how they could help the HRC obtain resources. Hovey suggests HRC look into sitting in on meetings. Swift offered to find out the name of ICC's contact person.
- Eke notes that she and Jessica should find out what the Community Foundation will fund. Ling says that its funds are typically endowed for a specific purpose.
- Eke suggests that group must become more involved in human rights awareness events and focus less on self-promotion. The HRC has visibility now. Ling suggests HRC take time as a group to reassess goals and decide how to proceed.
- Eke reads draft of HRC's statement regarding the election and community healing. Final draft must not alienate people and will be sent to The Morning Sun. Eke says everyone from HRC should sign the letter.
- Swift posits that not many people read The Morning Sun anymore. Ling suggests publishing the letter in CM Life as well. Gonzales points out that the HRC should offer itself as a safe space and Eke confirmed that it did. Ling suggests the letter talk about how the campaign rhetoric and terrorism of minorities is wrong and that people must be prepared to confront it.
- Swift asked what the "A" and "I" in the letter stand for in the acronym LGBTQAI. Lalonde replied that "A" stands for asexual and "I" stands for intersex.

C. Disability Subcommittee

- Swift said that no committee meeting was held this month.
- Swift was at the Planapalooza meeting for the city. On-street parking spaces were discussed at the meeting and Swift asserted that the HRC will be involved in this process.

D. Law Enforcement Subcommittee

- Eke has not yet discussed the ALPACT program with Trooper White but will discuss it when time permits.

7. New Business

- Ling revealed that Shirley Decker has resigned from the HRC.
- Jessica Axe (Graduate Intern) will look at the campus Spring Calendar as well as grant opportunities when the semester begins and report back. Axe will also research hate crimes in Isabella County following the elections.
- Gonzales mentioned a diversity group which is having a holiday desert tasting and post-election discussion on December 15th.

8. Announcements

- After the election, students protested on campus and Eke was able to inform them about the HRC. She announced that the HRC is a safe space for anyone whose rights have been violated. She encouraged the students to contact the HRC should they experience any human rights violations. She also invited them to the HRC's monthly meetings.
- Gonzales announced that the HRC event at the Committee on Aging needs a presenter for a 45 minute-1 hour presentation.
- Eke reminded the Committee that the Law Enforcement subcommittee needs a Chair. She encouraged anyone who was interested to let her know. The former members included: Eke, Gonzales, Husbands, and Newby (now resigned) as chair.
- Gonzales asked that anyone interested in joining the Micro-aggressions subcommittee must let her know.
- Eke stated that the next HRC meeting is January 9th and that officer elections will occur in January.
- We will have a potluck in January 2017 to start the year.

9. Adjournment

- Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.