

ISABELLA CO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Date: February 6, 2017

Called to order: 5:20 P.M.

Members Present:

Maureen Eke – Chair
Elizabeth Husbands – Vice Chair
Laura Gonzales
Anne Swift
Karen Rau
Wendy Hovey
Sue Poindexter
Kristin Lalonde
Shuna Stevens, Secretary
Amy Shawboose

Excused Absences:

David Ling – County Commissioner

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Maureen Eke at 5:20 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Poindexter moved to approve the agenda as amended. Husbands seconded, motion passed.

3. General Public Comment

Megan Fulton, Girls on the Run representative was in the audience to share information on her organization and has informational material if wanted.

Johnny Tayton (unsure if accurate spelling) from the Regional Preschool Program is interested in being on the HRC and wants to offer more information in her program on implicit bias and micro-aggressions.

Dawn Jevitz from Woman's Aid Service is interested in being on the HRC and shared information on upcoming events and services her program provides.

Mike Solbleski runs a mentoring program with the West Midland Family Center and is interested in exposing his youth to more culture. Solbleski is also interested in serving on the HRC.

Magdalena Lopez shared that she wants to learn about the HRC, and may be interested in serving on the HRC as well.

4. Approval of January 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Rau motioned to approve the minutes as amended, Shawboose seconded, motion passed.

5. New Business

- Muslim/Travel Ban was discussed as it relates to our community and what we as a committee can do to help.
 - Showing support was discussed as being positive for Muslims.
 - Discussion about the fear that our Muslim community members are facing.
- Discussion of setting up a Town Hall Meeting to show support community wide for the Muslim's living here, as a starting point.
 - Husbands is going to research space options to have the Town Hall Meeting.
 - Gonzalez is going to do outreach with the church community.
 - Shawboose will do outreach with the Tribe.
 - Eke will do outreach with the Student Organizations
 - Discussion was made to have Law Enforcement there for educational purposes.
- Eke stated that we should generate and share Trump affiliated business.

6. Reports: Chair's Report

- a. Eke will discuss a future County Commission report date with Ling.
- b. Review and discussion of the HRC budget. Eke suggested that the members look into seminars to go to, or for presenters to come in, human trafficking was suggested as a possible topic idea.
- c. Letter to the Editor of the Morning Sun and CM Life was published in the Morning Sun in the "Other" section and was very hard to find.
- d. Eke is handling the updating of the HRC website
- e. Husbands is meeting with publisher of the Rack Cards this week and will have a proof soon.
- f. Gonzalez provided an updated Events Calendar. It was reported that Eke, Husbands, Gonzalez, Rau, and Axe participated in the MLK Jr. Day events. Rau, Shawboose, and Eke will be doing the Maple Syrup Festival event.

A. Community Education Subcommittee

- Gonzalez reported that this sub-committee did meeting this past month, that there is a focus of doing 10 presentations of the micro-aggressions study, and that at this point there have not been any done.
- It was suggested that outreach be done with Ryan Griffus of the Isabella County Restoration House be contacted for a presentation.
- Budget updated to include the purchase of micro-aggression study materials.

B. Disability Subcommittee

- Swift provided background on Isabella County seeking a letter of recommendation from the HRC in the past on universal design of parks, and that another recommendation was sought on the purchase of special chairs to make the water accessible in the parks. Swift presented the letter of recommendation. Shawboose motioned to approve the letter, Poindexter seconded, it was approved for Swift to send it to Isabella County Board of Commissioners.

C. Law Enforcement Subcommittee

- Hovey reported that the sub-committee met this past month and that there was discussion of establishing goals for the sub-committee. Goals have not been finalized however it was discussed that the committee would be more proactive and involved.
- Hovey reported that the sub-committee has decided to table pursuit of the Citizen Review Board, as there is another community organization is already doing this. The sub-committee will collaborate with that committee as needed.
- Hovey reported that there will a meet and greet for the new Mt Pleasant City Public Safety Director, Lauria, on February 13, and that there are a few from the sub-committee going to attend that.
- Eke said that we should still seek getting the demographic information for the inmates at the Isabella County Jail.

D. County Community Collaborative

- Hovey participated in the last meeting on behalf of the HRC, she reported that there is a lot of valuable information shared at this meeting, and suggested HRC's continued presence. They meeting the last Friday of the month at the Commission on Aging (CoA).
- Hovey discussed that she also learned about Listening Ear and the Community Service Council that meets the first Monday of the month at noon at CoA. At their last meeting they had a presenter from the homeless shelter there.

7. Adjournment

- Eke requested a motion to adjourn the meeting; Poindexter made the motion and Shawboose seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.