

ISABELLA CO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Date: January 9, 2017

Called to order: 5:30 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 5:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of October 3, 2016 and December 5, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Hovey motioned to approve the minutes as amended, Husbands seconded, motion passed.

4. General Public Comment

No public comment

5. Old Business

- Eke said that the Confederate Flag Letter was still waiting to be published and that CM Life would probably be more likely to publish. The letter will be sent within the week so any remaining comments must be in by Tuesday.
- Eke said she has edited the Confederate Flag Letter and it contains extensive research as well as examples of hate crimes in Mount Pleasant.
- Swift inquired as to whether the entire committee would sign the letter and Eke replied that they would.

- Concerning the events calendar, Laura suggested that the committee focus on the closest event. Eke revealed that Jessica Axe (Graduate Intern) would be marching with her in the MLK day March and that Axe would confirm that the MLK breakfast would be held in Finch.
- Laura inquired whether the Human Trafficking Conference would be on March 3 and Eke confirmed that it would be in the University Center on that day. Eke added that the event is free. Eke posited that she is in contact with the attorney general about potentially serving as key note speaker.
- Lalonde added that Eke should try contacting Judy Emmons as well because she discusses human trafficking on her website. Eke agreed that this would be a good idea.
- Swift asked whether pre-registration was required for the conference and Eke replied that it would be.
- Eke suggested that the group look at the events calendar and let Gonzales know what they would like to help with.

6. Reports

A. Chair's Report

- Eke noted that the September meeting minutes were missing from the website and that updates need to be made pertaining to removing former committee members and updating the officer positions. Stevens replied that she will look for the minutes within her files.
- Eke reported that the office in the county building does not have enough space to store the business cards and other materials for the committee. Gonzales replied that the committee should contest that. Eke said she would pursue the matter and Husbands agreed to keep the materials for now.
- Husbands posited that there was a mail room in the building that might have space and that if the committee did not have to access the materials often that it should not be an issue.

B. Community Education Subcommittee

- Hovey discussed the Isabella Community Collaborative and asked Swift if she had received information from Jim. Anne replied that she could not recall receiving information from him.
- Hovey suggested that the Isabella Community Collaborative had speakers that the committee may want to bring in and said that they meet on the first Friday of every month at the Commission on Aging.
- Poindexter said that Hovey should go to the next meeting and then report back. Hovey replied that she will go next month and while there, inquire about whether the collaborative is looking for speakers as well.

C. Disability Subcommittee

- Swift said that no committee meeting was held this month.
- Swift revealed that the city was moving ahead on the downtown handicapped spaces. The number of spaces to be commissioned is being discussed at 7p.m. tonight. Swift said that diagonal spaces would be turned into handicapped.
- Husbands inquired about what the laws were for apartments concerning handicapped parking. Husbands reveals that a friend of hers had fallen twice and that she had no handicapped spaces directly near her apartment building.
- Swift asked if she would be willing to fill out a form and Husbands replied that she had suggested that.
- Hovey posited that Rau would like to join the disability subcommittee because she is experienced with mental health.

D. Law Enforcement Subcommittee

- Eke revealed that the law enforcement subcommittee still needs someone to serve as Chair. Husbands replied that she would continue serve on the committee.
- Gonzales requested that Hovey be nominated as chair of the Law Enforcement subcommittee, Hovey approved as chair.
- Swift asked if ALPACT is separate from the Law Enforcement Subcommittee's goals and Eke said yes. Eke said that she had not yet received a response from Trooper White to her email.
- Eke listed the people interested in the law-enforcement subcommittee as follows: Lalonde, Stevens, Hovey, Husbands, Rau, and herself.

E. Study of Micro-Aggressions Subcommittee

- The subcommittee met on Monday at 5:30 pm.
- Gonzales revealed that the budget should be reviewed again to ensure that everyone has been paid for printing. Husbands said that she had filled out the paperwork and that it may take a while to process. Eke said she would look into this.

7. New Business

- Hovey said that she believed Lalonde wanted to help with pride week. Gonzales told Lalonde that she should be in contact with Shannon who is the director of the LGBTQ office on campus.
- Concerning committee elections, Poindexter suggested that offices be kept as they are if everyone is willing to serve again.
- Husbands asked if Stevens would serve again as secretary and Stevens said she would. Husbands and Eke also agreed to serve again as vice chair and chair

respectively. Motion made to approve the officers remaining the same, and it was approved.

- Eke asked the collective if they were happy with their subcommittees as they stood and the collective agreed.

8. Announcements

- Eke revealed that the business cards are in.
- Poindexter announced that there was a new a human trafficking film in theaters entitled “Breaking the Chain” and suggested that the movie should be brought to Mount Pleasant.

9. Adjournment

- Eke requested a motion to adjourn the meeting; Swift made the motion and Husbands seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.