

ISABELLA COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: May 1, 2017

Members Present:

Maureen Eke – Chair
Elizabeth Husbands – Vice-Chair
Laura Gonzales
Wendy Hovey
Sue Poindexter
Karen Rau
Amy Shawboose

Excused Absences:

Kristin LaLonde
Mark Sanderson
Anne Swift
David Ling – County Commissioner

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chair Maureen Eke at 5:18 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Sue Poindexter moved to approve the agenda as amended. Karen Rau seconded, motion passed.

3. Public Comment

There were a number of people in the audience who introduced themselves. Karen Jackson, Register of Deeds, spoke about the services of her office. Paul Lauria, Mt. Pleasant Division of Public Safety Director/Police Chief, introduced himself to the HRC members and emphasized the importance of open communication, transparency, empathy and honesty. There was extensive dialogue between the HRC and Mr. Lauria. Erica Peters, Ombudsperson, Central Michigan University, introduced herself.

4. Approval of April 2017 Meeting Minutes

There were no HRC April Meeting Minutes because the HRC sponsored the “Town Hall Conversation on the Muslim Ban: Healing Our Community” on April 3. Karen Rau mentioned that the HRC March 6 Meeting Minutes still need to be approved. It was agreed that this item will be on the HRC June 5 Meeting Agenda.

5. New Business – Feedback on Town Hall

Maureen Eke reported that the Muslim Students on the panel enjoyed presenting information to the community. Feedback was positive about the Town Hall.

6. Reports - Chair’s Report

- a. Report to County Board

Maureen Eke reported that David Ling was still recuperating and there were no plans made yet to schedule the Annual Report to the Isabella County Commissioners.

b. HRC Budget

Maureen Eke will meet with Margaret McAvoy, County Administrator, about the HRC Budget.

c. Maple Syrup Festival Participation

Karen Rau reserved the HRC's registration for the Parade. HRC did not participate in the parade as planned. Amy Shawboose thought the parade was cancelled due to bad weather but discussion from HRC members indicated it was not cancelled.

d. Events Calendar

Laura Gonzales reviewed the updated HRC Calendar and asked that the HRC Person responsible for a program to communicate with the volunteers for that program in order to ensure that the HRC is represented.

7. Micro-aggression Community Education Sub-committee Reports

a. Community Education Sub-committee

Laura Gonzales reported that the sub-committee did not meet in April. The group is still working on scheduling some presentations about the Study of Micro-aggressions to the Mt. Pleasant community. The budget has \$11,743.22.

b. Disability Sub-committee

The Mt. Pleasant City Commission will be meeting on May 22 and would decide about the possible addition of barrier-free parking spaces in the downtown area. It was suggested that HRC members educate others about the interest to have these spaces and encourage them to submit letters of support to the City Commissioners. HRC members were encouraged to attend the meeting.

c. Law Enforcement Sub-committee

Wendy Hovey reported that the sub-committee had met and they are still working on determining the goals of this group.

8. Meetings

a. Isabella County Community Collaborative - Wendy Hovey reported that she had attended the monthly meeting of this group as a representative of HRC. Following discussion it was agreed that Wendy will share the Memorandum of Understanding that the ICC is working on with the HRC.

b. Commission On Aging Luncheon - Wendy Hovey went to the meeting of this group and said that they are interested in having a presentation on the Study of Micro-aggressions in November. Laura Gonzales will contact them to proceed with scheduling.

c. The Clare–Gratiot–Isabella Human Trafficking Committee has two HRC members involved. Maureen Eke is a member on the Education and Research sub-committees and Wendy Hovey is on the Publicity Sub-committee. The Coalition will place flyers that educate the public on human trafficking in bathrooms at rest stops in Clare, Gratiot, and Isabella Counties.

9. Other

The printing of the HRC Rack Cards was discussed. Elizabeth Husbands will send the proof again to the HRC members to seek their feedback. The deadline for feedback is Friday, May 5.

10. Announcements

a. The July HRC Meeting will be on Monday, July 10, because of the 4th of July holiday.

b. Maureen Eke announced that the fall Human Trafficking Conference at CMU will take place on Friday, October 13, 2017.

11. Adjournment

Amy Shawboose made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Wendy Hovey seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Submitted by Laura Gonzales, HRC At-large Member

6/1/17