

Isabella County Human Rights Committee  
Minutes October 1, 2018

**Members Present**

Maureen Eke, Chairperson  
Sarvjit Chowdhary  
Laura Gonzales  
Cheryl Gonzalez  
Mat Mertz  
Alicia Paterni  
Amy Shawboose  
Anne Swift

**Excused Absences**

Justin Knott  
Elizabeth Husbands- Vice Chair  
David Ling- County Commission

**1. Welcome**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Maureen Eke at 5:22 p.m. Maureen Eke asked for a volunteer to take minutes for current meeting. Alicia Paterni volunteered to take minutes for the next fiscal year.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was proposed by Mat Mertz to approve the agenda and that motion was seconded by Cheryl Gonzalez. All members approved the agenda.

**3. Approval of September Minutes**

September Minutes discussed, changes noted and will be updated by Laura Gonzales. A motion was proposed by Mat Mertz and seconded by Anne Swift. Motion supported by all members and passed unanimously.

**4. General Public Comments**

Jim Moreno, County Commissioner, asked committee how the Peace event went. Chairperson Maureen Eke stated we would all give a recap of the event under the Chair's report. Dhrub Abrol was present as guest of committee member Sarvijt Chowdhary. He had no public comment. Chairperson Maureen Eke welcomed guests.

**5. Reports:**

a) Chair's report:

- i. HRC Let Peace Reign – Maureen Eke asked members present at the event for their thoughts on how the Peace event went. Discussion followed. All comments were positive and committee members thought event went well. Discussion moved on to how we as a committee could improve the event for next year.
  1. Mat Mertz stated there is a popcorn group that is interested in attending next year
  2. Maureen Eke clarified that the bouncy house was not able to join us due to liability reasons.

3. Amy Shawboose commented that next year we could do more to advertise the event earlier in the month--possibly sending media outlets event details 6 weeks, 4 weeks, and 2 weeks prior to event.
4. Cheryl Gonzalez also stated that promotion of the event should start earlier, including doing a bio on event speakers two weeks before the event to draw more public interest. Cheryl Gonzalez also stated that if the Press does not want to pick up our event story multiple times there is nothing we can do about it. Noting that newspaper deadlines are earlier than online postings so we will need to have a press release ready early enough to run in the Mt. Pleasant newspaper.
5. Maureen Eke stated that colleagues of hers stated that they would help get more CMU students in attendance.
6. Laura Gonzales stated that follow up with community agencies would be helpful next year to remind them of the event and see if they are planning on attending. Only two community partners showed up to the Peace event: Families Against Narcotics (FAC).
7. Cheryl Gonzalez stated we should have handed out all donations from community businesses. If we do not give away all donations at the event, we should send them back to the businesses they came from.
8. Should not keep some donations (gift cards) for the following year's event. Committee members agreed with this.
9. Maureen Eke suggested handing out left over donations (gift cards) at Christmas time. Maureen Eke stated that Elizabeth Husbands has the remaining donations and Elizabeth Husbands was not at the current meeting.
10. Amy Shawboose suggested that disseminating the prizes next year should be more organized and have one person in charge. This led to a discussion on the gifts.
11. Maureen Eke summarized that we need to determine how gifts will be handed out should be discussed as a group, and not have one person make decisions.
12. Cheryl Gonzalez asked if the cash from the raffle was deposited into HRC account. Maureen Eke stated it had. Cheryl Gonzales suggested any toys that were left over from donations could be donated to Women's Aid.
13. Amy Shawboose stated her concern that not all HRC members were committed to this event and thought next year there could be a sign up sheet a few months in advance so all members could participate equally.
14. Cheryl Gonzalez stated there was confusion on what duties needed to be covered by the event because minutes were not taken during the event planning conference calls. Cheryl Gonzalez also voiced concern that if one conference call was missed by a member, said member would not have an efficient way to gather missed information. Future conference calls will have minutes taken.
15. Maureen Eke stated that she sent out list of duties several times, but only David Ling and Alicia Paterni volunteered. The Committee will need to identify what additional duties need volunteers for next year and communicate them to all members. In return, Committee members will have to hold themselves responsible to fulfill said duties for the Peace event in 2019.
16. Maureen Eke stated that there was a glitch regarding the arrival of the musician. Next year everyone will know what time to expect the musician to begin playing. Maureen Eke also stated that the second food truck had broken down and was unable to attend.

17. Sarvijt Chowdhary suggested Thank you letters and a Certification of Appreciation be sent to all businesses who donated a gift as well as our food vendors. Maureen Eke will draft a sample letter.
18. Cheryl Gonzales volunteered to design the Certification of Appreciation and will send them to Maureen Eke.
19. Maureen Eke then requested that feedback on the proposed thank you letter be sent to her. She will make adjustments as necessary.

i Budget Update:

Laura Gonzales requested information on how much the Peace event cost. Laura Gonzales will prepare a budget update for November meeting.

iii. HRC Intern:

Intern publicity ad will be sent to all HRC Committee members

iv. Fall Activities:

1. October 8, 2018 is Indigenous Peoples' Day. Native American Heritage Month is also the month of October. On October 8, CMU students will come to City Hall to sign a proclamation. This signing is open to the public. Committee members do not know the hours of this signing. It was suggested that HRC Committee members attend to show our collective support.

2. Christmas parade:

The Christmas parade is not called Dickens Christmas anymore. It was suggested that HRC Committee members walk in the parade again this year to hand out candy and HRC business cards.

3. CMU activities:

Cheryl Gonzalez will email HRC Committee members a flyer of CMU activities

4. HRC events calendar:

Cheryl Gonzalez volunteered to do the calendar again if no other HRC committee member volunteers. It was decided that committee members revisit this item at the November meeting.

6. Subcommittee updates: Micro-aggression Community Education

a.) It was decided that the Subcommittee members will meet privately, at a later date, to discuss their continued project.

7. Old Business

a.) Human Trafficking conference at CMU. Approximately 50 people have registered. If HRC Committee members want to attend, they need to register now. The conference is free. Conference is on October 12, 2018 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Lunch provided.

8. New Business

a.) Discussion of By-laws was tabled until the next HRC committee meeting in November 2018.

9. Announcements

a.) No announcements made.

10. Adjournment

a.) The motion to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. was made by Amy Shawboose and seconded by Anne Swift; motion carried unanimously.