

# **Isabella County Human Rights Committee**

## **Minutes December 10, 2018**

### **Members Present**

Maureen Eke, Chairperson  
Savijit Chowdhary  
Laura Gonzales  
David Ling, County Commissioner  
Matt Mertz  
Alicia Paterni  
Amy Shawboose  
Cheryl Gonzalez

### **Excused Absences**

Justin Knott  
Anne Swift

### **1. Welcome**

Chairperson Maureen Eke called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Maureen Eke asked for a motion to approve December agenda. Amy Shawboose proposed a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Laura Gonzales. Motion carried with full support of the HRC committee

### **3. Public Comment**

There was no public comment

### **4. Approval of November 2018 Minutes**

Amy Shawboose made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes, David Lang seconded the motion to approve November meeting minutes with corrections. Approval of the November meeting minutes passed unanimously. Alicia Paterni will make said corrections and email to chairperson Maureen Eke.

### **5. Reports**

#### **a. HRC Graduate Student Intern**

Chairperson Maureen Eke will forward information to her contact at MSU to post the Student Intern position in hopes of finding an interested candidate.

**b. End of Year Report to County Commissioners**

Chairperson Maureen Eke will schedule end of year report to County Commissioners in January.

**c. HRC Activities**

Amy Shawboose thanked HRC members Cheryl Gonzalez and family along with Alicia Paterni and family for showing their support and walking in the Mt. Pleasant Christmas Parade.

Laura Gonzales asked if the HRC still had the leftover gift certificates from the Peace event. Maureen Eke will find out where they are and HRC members will discuss disbursement of the leftover gift certificates at the January HRC meeting.

Maureen Eke voiced a special thanks to committee member Cheryl Gonzalez for handling the social media accounts for the HRC.

Maureen Eke stated that vice-chairperson Elizabeth Husbands has resigned from the HRC because she is moving to another state. All HRC members stated how thankful we are to have had Elizabeth Husbands on the committee and that she will be greatly missed.

Amy Shawboose also gave a big thanks to David Ling for serving on the HRC. David Ling's appointment to the HRC is ending in December 2018. This was David's last meeting. HRC members gave David Ling a card and cake in celebration for all his hard work. David Ling will also be greatly missed by the HRC members.

**d. HRC Presentation at Isabella County Collaborative**

Chairperson Maureen Eke stated the presentation to the ICC went really well.

She received good feedback, and some individuals did not know the HRC existed. Other HRC members who went to this presentation to show their support are Laura Gonzales, and Sarvjit Chowdhary. Thank you for your support!

## **Subcommittee Updates:**

### **a. Study of Microaggressions**

Laura Gonzales stated that only two HRC members showed up to the scheduled sub-committee meeting, herself and Sarvjit Chowdhary. This meeting is to expand the Microaggressions presentation to include other forms of bias and discrimination. Laura Gonzales stated she is going to send another meeting request to interested HRC members in hopes of getting more participation.

### **b. By-Law Subcommittee**

Amy Shawboose stated that this committee had miscommunication regarding the meeting date, and was unable to meet. Alicia Paterni stated that she would initiate another email to get a meeting time and place scheduled. Chairperson Maureen Eke suggested waiting until after the new year to schedule this meeting due to the upcoming holidays.

Amy Shawboose had a suggestion on what to include in the updated by-laws: HRC members should be on the board for at least (1) one year and attend at least (6) six meetings to be eligible to run for executive position on the HRC.

Laura Gonzales stated that this committee could also look into doing a "New HRC Member" packet, to help educate new members on the history of the HRC. In this packet would be the HRC Committees by-laws along with other pertinent information new members will need to review.

Chairperson Maureen Eke stated that we might allocate some HRC funds to create a handbook/packet with the by-laws, meeting minutes, directory, history of events etc. This may be added to the By-Laws subcommittee's task.

## **6. New Business:**

### **a. 2019 Events/Programs**

#### **January- Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

MLK Jr. Day is on January 21, 2019. Chairperson Maureen Eke will be participating in the MLK Jr. Peace March on January 21, 2019. She encourages other HRC members to join her if they are able.

#### **February- Black History Month**

Maureen Eke will look into giving a presentation in February at CMU in honor of Black History Month. She has stated we need more publicity for this event and is asking HRC members to spread the word.

#### **March- Women's History Month**

Cheryl Gonzalez will help connect the HRC committee to any community partners who may be planning a celebration to support Women's History Month.

**March- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe**

Tribal Pow-Wow March 23 and 24 located at the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

**May- Asian Heritage Month**

Laura Gonzales stated that May is Asian Heritage month and she will help connect the HRC committee to any community partners who may be planning a celebration to support Asian Heritage Month.

**b. Events Calendar**

Chairperson Maureen Eke asked for volunteers from the committee to take on the HRC Events Calendar. Laura Gonzales stated she would take the calendar back. Maureen Eke thanked Laura Gonzales for doing so. Maureen Eke then asked committee members to send community events that the HRC may want to support to Laura Gonzales so that she can add them to the HRC's Calendar of Events. Laura Gonzales stated that she would place committee members names on the calendar to show who will be representing the HRC at that event.

**c. 2019 Re-activating & Re-charging Law Enforcement Subcommittee**

Chairperson Maureen Eke, Mat Mertz, Laura Gonzales, and Cheryl Gonzalez stated they are interested in joining this committee. We will discuss reactivating and charging the Subcommittee in January. The subcommittee will begin meeting in January to discuss next steps.

**d. Liaison with MPADG**

The HRC needs a new member to be the liaison for MPADG. Chairperson Maureen Eke has asked Laura Gonzales and she has agreed to serve. Amy Shawboose made a motion to elect Laura Gonzales as liaison. Cheryl Gonzalez seconded the motion, and all HRC members voted unanimously in support. Congratulations Laura Gonzales as Liaison to MPADG!

**7. Announcements**

County Commissioner will be posting openings for their liaison to the HRC.

Chairperson Maureen Eke asked all HRC members to brainstorm short term- and long term goals; and target populations or groups that we want to work with for the 2019 calendar year.

**8. Adjournment**

Chairperson Maureen Eke asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was supported by David Ling, seconded by Amy Shawboose, and passed unanimously. The HRC adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

