

**Isabella County Human Rights Committee
Minutes February 4, 2019**

Members Present

Maureen Eke, Chairperson
Sarvjit Chowdhary
Laura Gonzales
Steve Swaney, County Commissioner
Matt Mertz
Alicia Paterni
Amy Shawboose
Cheryl Gonzalez
Dawn Jevicks
Anne Swift

Un/Excused Absences

Justin Knott-Unexcused

Guests

Erica Hopcraft
Paula Lauria, Mt. Pleasant Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police

1. Welcome

Chairperson Maureen Eke called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Maureen Eke asked to add a discussion about Justin Knott's absences as item number 5 in the agenda. Maureen Eke asked for a motion to approve February agenda. Amy Shawboose made a motion to approve agenda as amended. Sarvjit Chowdhary

3. Public Comment

Mt. Pleasant Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police, Paul Lauria shared with the HRC a complaint from 12/2018 that has been resolved. Mr. Lauria explained that a juvenile was arrested 11/3/18 for trespassing at the Wayside bar in Mt. Pleasant. This individual's parents felt the arrest may have been racially motivated. An internal investigation of the case including a review of video footage found that this arrest was not racially motivated, and the arresting officer was found to have followed police protocol. Mr. Lauria stated the case has been resolved. HRC members

had a few questions about the type of training officers receive. HRC members made some suggestions for future trainings: To avoid confusing persons being questioned or arrested in the future, members suggested the following:

1. Have officers give clear and precise directions to individuals and ask if the individuals understand the commands or directions the officer has given;
2. Trauma Informed Training for all officers so that they understand how best to communicate with a trauma victim.
3. Disability Training,, specifically paying attention to sensory disabilities, so officers are aware of Sensory triggers individuals may have.
4. Use Google translate when dealing with non-English speakers and in the absence of a language translator. Officers already have tablets that they use in their patrol cars. Google translate app could easily be downloaded to their tablets.

4. Approval of January 2019 Meeting Minutes

Amy Shawboose asked for the second paragraph on page 2 be deleted; she did not make those comments. Chairperson Maureen Eke asked for a motion to approve January 2019 meeting minutes as amended. Dawn Jevicks made a motion for approval. Sarvjit Chowdhary seconded the motion and January 2019 meeting minutes were approved unanimously. Secretary, Alicia Paterni will make said corrections and upload minutes to the Google drive HRC folder.

5. New Business

HRC member Justin Knott has missed multiple meetings since being appointed to the Committee. He missed meetings last year (all excused) and both January and February meetings this year (unexcused). Justin Knott has not been responsive to any emails from Chairperson Maureen Eke. Maureen Eke will send one final email to Justin Knott inquiring if he is still interested in being on the HRC. If no response is received, the HRC will request a formal letter of resignation from the Committee. i. Maureen Eke asked for a motion to send an email to board member Justin Knott to inquire about his desire to remain on the HRC. A motion was made by Dawn Jericks and seconded by Steve Swaney, this motion passed unanimously.

6. Reports: President's Report

a. Report to County Board

Chairperson Maureen Eke emailed the County Board report to all HRC members. She also shared a power point of the report she will make to the County Board of Commissioners during this meeting. Maureen Eke highlighted three main points in the presentation; What has the HRC done? What is the HRC doing now? and What are the HRC's future plans? She asked for feedback from the council. All members stated it was a great presentation with detailed information. She will be giving this presentation to the County Commissioners Tuesday February 5, 2019 at 4 pm.

b. HRC Budget

There have not been any changes to the budget this month.

c. Events Calendar - Laura Gonzales

Laura Gonzales printed off the HRC calendar of events for all HRC members review and indicate what events they will attend.

d. Outreach to CMU -

Chair Maureen N. Eke will make a presentation on the HRC to Central Michigan University's Student Government Association (SGA) February 25, 2019 at 7pm, in the University Center Auditorium on Campus. The presentation will introduce the HRC, its activities, and how it can work with the students in the future.

7. Subcommittee Updates:

a.) Study of Micro-Aggressions - Community Education Sub-committee (Gonzales)

This sub-committee was not able to meet and has no update.

b.) Reactivating the Law Enforcement Sub-committee

This committee was charged during our meeting. Members include: Maureen Eke, Laura Gonzales, Cheryl Gonzalez, Dawn Jevicks, Matt Mertz, Sarvjit Chowdhary and Amy Shawboose. Maureen Eke will chair the subcommittee; she will schedule a meeting of the group soon.

d.) By-Laws sub-committee

This committee did meet and have made proposed changes to the HRC By-Laws. Alicia Paterni will get Bylaws word document from chairperson Maureen Eke, and email updated version to all HRC members. Members include: Amy Shawboose, Matt Mertz, and Alicia Paterni.

8. Announcements

Amy Shawboose stated that she would not be at the March 4, 2019 HRC meeting.

9. Adjournment

Chairperson Maureen Eke asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was supported by Matt Mertz, seconded by Sarvjit Chowdhary, and passed unanimously. The HRC adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

10. Next Meeting

March 4, 2019 at the Isabella County Courthouse 2nd floor 5:15 p.m.