

Isabella County Human Rights Committee
January 6th, 2025
Meeting held at the Isabella County Commission on Aging

ATTENDANCE:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Maureen Eke - Chairperson | Laura Gourlay | Phillip Mikus |
| Nicole Hagle | Donna Giuliani | Amy Pershbacher |
| Danny McQuarters | Russ Hyde | Amy Shawboose |
| Sarvjit Chowdhary | | |
| Absent: Hunter Burlett | | |
| | Guest: Tobin Hope | Guest: Paul Lauria |

1. Welcome / Call to Order:

- a. Meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Maureen Eke
- b. Laura Gourlay acknowledged the day and the potential impact of the events of January 6th, 2021 on human rights in the United States.

2. Land Acknowledgement

- a. We are working to develop / adopt one.

3. Approval of Agenda:

- a. Danny M. added items to New business MLK March, Boarding School vandalism, and potential hate crime incident at a local church downtown)
- b. Donna G. moved to approve the agenda as amended. Amy P. seconded. Agenda approved.

4. Approval of December 2024 Minutes

- a. Nicole Hagle emailed December 2024 minutes to the committee for approval in February
- b. Nicole Hagle emailed the committee the link to all of the 2025 minutes

5. Public Comments

- a. Officer Paul Lauria spoke of a complaint that City Police had about an officer that is being taken care of in house. City police have access to a mental health individual for community members. They also work with their officers and have training on working with community members in crisis. The HRC is appreciative of this. Officer Lauria will share both the complaint and the department's response with the HRC email for review.
- b. Commissioner Tobin Hope let us know that the County Commission will be reorganizing and assigning subcommittees. We may have a new representative from the board.

6. HRC Executive Committee Elections and Sub-Committee Review

- a. Amy S. nominated Maureen E. for Chair. Sarvjit C. seconded. Maureen Eke did not accept.
- b. Maureen E. nominated Donna G., and Laura Gourlay seconded. Donna G. accepted and was unanimously elected.
- c. Maureen E. nominated Laura G. as Vice Chair, and Sarvjit C. seconded. Laura accepted and was unanimously elected.
- d. Danny M. nominated Nicole H. as Secretary, Russ H. seconded and Nicole accepted and was unanimously elected.
- e. Maureen E. shared some Chairperson responsibilities with Donna.

7. Subcommittee Review and Assignments

- a. A Subcommittee for events planning was proposed, and gained consensus. This subcommittee will initially focus on the Let Peace Reign Event
- b. Community Education - We will assign members in February
- c. Law Enforcement - We will assign members in February
- d. Disability- We will assign members in February

8. Old Business

- a. No old business

9. New Business

- a. MLK Brunch & March - January 20th @ Finch Fieldhouse. Danny M. will send out details. The march is at 3:00 p.m.
- b. Boarding School Vandalism - CMU's Director for Indigenous Affairs approached Danny M. about the issue of vandalism. Officer Lauria explained that the City Police are aware and do work with Tribal Police. It was determined that while the HRC members agreed that the issue is concerning, it is not the HRC's charge to intervene. We are appreciative that the city and tribal police departments work together.
- c. Motion to approve the calendar as noted in the minutes. Motion made by Amy P. and seconded by Nicole H. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Potential hate crime at a local church downtown was removed from new business.

10. Adjournment:

- a. Meeting was adjourned by Donna G. at 6:29.