

Isabella County Human Rights Committee
Minutes January 11, 2021

Members Present

Dr. Maureen Eke - Chairperson
Cheryl Gonzalez, Vice Chairperson
Alicia Paterni - Secretary
Erica Hopcraft
Amy Shawboose
Sarvjit Chowdhary
Laura Gonzales
Steve Swaney, County Commissioner
Matt Mertz
Laura Gourlay
Shelly Smith
Elizabeth Husbands

Un/Excused Absences

Guests

Paul Lauria (insert his title)

1. Welcome

Chairperson Dr. Maureen Eke called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. and welcomed all members and the public.

2. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Eke asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Amy Shawboose made the motion to approve the January agenda with Elizabeth Husbands seconding the motion. Agenda was passed with full support from the council.

**3. Public Comment - Public Safety Director Paul Lauria of Mt.
Pleasant Police department**

Mr. Lauria stated that these are troubled times we are living in right now and hopefully brighter days are ahead. He also stated that forty percent of the department of public safety including police officers and first responders received the COVID vaccine by choice. Mr. Lauria stated he was thankful for having received a vaccine.

4. Approval of November 2020 and December 2020 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Eke asked for a motion to approve the November and December meeting minutes. Laura Gonzales made the motion, Sarjit Chowdhary seconded the motion and November and December 2020 meeting minutes were passed with full support from the council.

5. HRC Executive Committee Elections

Chairperson Dr. Maureen Eke nominated Elizabeth Husbands as Chairperson for the 2021 executive Board. Cheryl Gonzalez seconded the motion, with no objections from HRC members this motion passed. Congratulations Elizabeth Husbands. Dr. Eke also nominated Cheryl Gonzalez for Vice Chairperson of the 2021 Executive Board. Amy Shawboose seconded the motion which passed with full support from the committee. Congratulations Cheryl Gonzalez. Finally, Dr. Eke nominated Alicia Paterni for Secretary of the 2021 Executive Board.

6. Reports:

a. Chair's report:

- i. Incident report - residents housing complaint was moved to the Disability Sub committee
- ii. MLK Day - January 18, 2021 virtual events held all week through CMU
- iii. Black History Month - Education Subcommittee will look into events in February.
- iv. Outreach - Community outreach to communities outside of Mt. Pleasant. Such as Accessibility letter to Shepherd School Board
- v. Campus Outreach RSO's (Registered Student Organizations) - Dr. Maureen Eke
- vi. Community Event - Virtual Book Discussion of "I'm Still Here; Black Dignity in a World Made For Whiteness," February 15, 2021 from 6-7:00 p.m. The author, Austin Channing Brown, is African-American.
- vii. CGI Human Trafficking Coalition - January 28, 2021 7-8pm The HRC is co-sponsoring this event hosted by RISE

Sub-committee Updates:

a.) Community Education Subcommittee (L. Gonzales, Chairperson)

This committee has recently met and has produced a letter to the Mt. Pleasant School Board regarding their statement of commitment regarding justice, inclusion and empowerment. Committee member Laura Gourlay will read this letter from the HRC, to the Mt. Pleasant School Board at their next virtual meeting. This committee also composed a letter to the Shepherd School Board regarding accessibility within the Shepherd Middle and High Schools. Committee member Alicia Paterni will read this letter from the HRC, to the Shepherd School Board, at their next virtual meeting.

b.) Law Enforcement Subcommittee (M. Eke, Chairperson)

This subcommittee has not met lately as there has not been a pressing topic that needed to be addressed. Chairperson Dr. Maureen Eke will set a meeting for this group to discuss the current climate of the world.

c.) Disability Subcommittee (M. Mertz, Chairperson)

Chairperson Matt Mertz stated he will be attending the ICTC Board meeting this week to discuss the accessibility of bus stops on CMU campus that are not having the snow cleared effectively. Matt Mertz stated he will update HRC members next month with the results of said board meeting.

(New Chairperson Elizabeth Husbands took over meeting)

7. Old Business:

None

8. New Business:

Next month February, please send reimbursement forms to the new chairperson Elizabeth Husbands. If members bought the HRC Book Club book "I'm Still Here" and would like reimbursement please attach your receipt to your reimbursement form.

HRC will draft a reaction statement to Capitol Riots/Domestic Terrorism on January 6, 2021. The HRC will collaborate on a statement piece regarding the current climate of civic unrest within the United States.

9. Announcements:

None

10. Adjournment:

Elizabeth Husbands asked for a motion to adjourn. Matt Mertz made a motion to adjourn with Sarjit Chowdhary seconding the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

11. Next Meeting

February 1, 2021 virtual meeting at 5:15 p.m.