

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

Members Present

Maureen Eke, Chairperson
Matt Mertz
Excused
Laura Gonzales
Alicia Paterni
Cheryl Gonzalez
Dawn Jevicks

Un/Excused Absences

Justin Knott-Unexcused
Sarvjit Chowdhary -

Steve Swaney, CC -Excused
Amy Shawboose - Excused
Anne Swift - Unexcused

Guests

Jerry Jaloszynski, District 3 County Commissioner
Paul Lauria, Mt. Pleasant Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police

1. Welcome

Chairperson Maureen Eke called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Matt Mertz proposed approval of agenda, Alicia Paterni seconded motion and the agenda was approved by all council members.

3. Public Comment

Jerry Jaloszynski, District 3 County Commissioner, is working with the city of Winn, Michigan to head up a proposal for a new accessible playground. The current playground is over thirty years old. The budget for this project is \$105,000.00. Mr. Jaloszynski has applied for a \$75,000.00 grant to help offset the cost of this project, so the city will be responsible for the remaining \$30,000.00. Mr. Jaloszynski is asking the HRC to write a letter in support for this project. Chairperson Maureen Eke asked for a motion for the HRC to submit a letter of support to the Fremont Township Clerk. Matt Mertz made a motion, Alicia Paterni seconded this motion, and it passed with full support from the HRC.

Paul Lauria, Mt. Pleasant Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police, brought the HRC a rough draft of the “rack” card he is proposing. This rack card

will be in postcard format. The information on this will include how to file a complaint with the Mt. Pleasant Police Department. This project is a joint venture between the Mt. Pleasant Police Department, the Mount Pleasant Area Diversity Group, and the Isabella County Human Rights Committee. Once the rack card is finalized it will be displayed and handed out in the Mount Pleasant community. Chairperson Maureen Eke will compile all input from the HRC members and provide this feedback to Mr. Lauria by April 1, 2019.

4. Approval of February 2019 Meeting Minutes

All meeting minutes are now being uploaded to the HRC's Google Drive. This way all HRC members have access to the meeting minutes once Secretary, Alicia Paterni, has completed them. HRC's minutes will continue to be posted to the HRC's website for public access.

5. New Business

2% Grant- The deadline for the 2% grant from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is nearing. The HRC has leftover funds so we are not sure if we can apply for this grant this year. The HRC is looking into this.

6. Reports: President's Report

a. Presentation to CMU SGA + further action

Chairperson Maureen Eke stated the presentation to CMU's SGA (Student Government Association) went really well. Our next step with this group is to identify the SGA Diversity Representative and have that individual present to the HRC.

b. HRC Budget

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

Chairperson Maureen Eke would like to designate funds from the budget for a HRC Strategic Planning Retreat. This retreat is in the beginning stages of planning. This retreat will provide HRC members a 4 hour block on a Saturday to brainstorm the yearly activities of the HRC.

HRC member Dawn Jevicks inquired if there were any available giveaways for the CMU Pow-Wow on March 23rd. HRC will have a table at this event. Discussion was held about getting small hand

sanitizer giveaways. A motion was proposed to use a maximum of \$150.00 of HRC funds to purchase hand sanitizer giveaways for the CMU Pow-Wow on March 23, 2019 by Alicia Paterni. It was also noted that HRC has pens and some other items for possible distribution at the Pow Wow in the Isabella County Administrator's office. This was seconded by Cheryl Gonzalez, and passed with full support of the HRC.

c. Let Peace Reign event

Saturday, September 14, 2019, the pavilion at the Farmers Market in Mount Pleasant has been reserved by the HRC for our Annual "Let Peace Reign" event. The Mount Pleasant Fire Department will be co-sponsoring this event. The HRC is looking for other community partners who would like to participate in this event.

d. Events Calendar

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

e. Justin Knott

Chairperson Maureen Eke sent an email to HRC member Justin Knott inquiring if he is still interested in being on the HRC. Justin Knott has missed the last four consecutive HRC meetings. Justin Knott did not respond to this email sent from Chairperson Maureen Eke. A proposal to take steps to have Justin Knott removed from the HRC was requested, as per our by-laws, by Dawn Jevicks and seconded by Cheryl Gonzalez. This motion passed unanimously by all HRC members.

7. Subcommittee Updates:

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

Laura Gonzales, chair said this sub-committee does not have any current updates.

b.) Law Enforcement Sub-committee

The Law Enforcement Sub-committee is looking for allies within the community. Chairperson Maureen Eke has asked members of this subcommittee to gather a list of potential allies within the community who would support this group. Chairperson Maureen Eke has identified four areas to focus on:

1. Develop Protocol
2. Update Incident Report Form
3. Develop HRC Allies
4. Co-Sponsor Town Hall event with Mt. Pleasant Police Department and the HRC

c.) By-Laws Sub-committee

Alicia Paterni has the By-Laws of the HRC and will make proposed changes and distribute via Google Docs to all HRC members. HRC members will review proposed changes and will be prepared to vote on said changes at the April 2019 HRC meeting.

8. Announcements

There were no announcements made.

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was proposed by Alicia Paterni, seconded by Laura Gonzales, and passed unanimously. The HRC adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

10. Next Meeting

April 1, 2019 at the Isabella County Courthouse 2nd floor 5:15 p.m.