

St Cloud Area Regional Human Rights Commission Meeting
St Cloud City Hall Conference Room One

Wed Jan 17, 2018
6 pm - 7 pm

Attendees: Eunice Aadjei, Sarah Drake, Judy Foster, Heidi Hovis, Jama Moulid, Rachel Wexelbaum

1. Welcome and introductions

Question posed to the group: What will be your focus for 2018? Responses included staying hopeful, getting more sleep, staying focused, sticking with one's bliss. Recap of MLK dinner.

2. Goals with timeline for 2018

The St Cloud Area Regional Human Rights Commission meeting will organize and host 3 public forums in 2018:

- April: Creating Welcoming Community
- Summer: TBA
- October: Community Policing Agreement review

Discussion about white nationalist signs. Rachel will draft a statement to publish in the St Cloud Times for review and discussion during the February 2018 meeting.

Discussion about white nationalist signs in relation to City of St Cloud's resolution to be a welcoming city.

Update from Housing Working Group: United Way has a homeless team; their officials will have a closed meeting to discuss how to address homelessness in the region.

3. Human Rights Office updates

Jonathan working part time in the office now—he is working on his Masters at SCSU Human Rights Office working on goals for business education, and to educate employers as well as employees about the Human Rights Act

Human Rights Office continues to build its relationship with La Asamblea de Los Derechos Civiles

The office is seeing 5-10 walk-ins and calls per week; more people are asking how to file discrimination claims. The major percentage of claims are employment discrimination (employers or supervisors discriminating against workers due to age, race, national origin, or disability).

MDHR now focused on education—making sure that schools are creating a safe learning environment

There will be a public signing of the Community Policing Agreement—date coming soon—will Human Rights Commission sign it?

Human Rights Office doing outreach events in Bemidji, Sauk Center, Knife River, and St Ben's. 1-2 outreach events per month.

4. Announcements / 5. Other

Discussion about commission membership—currently 3 spots are open. According to Matt Glaesman, there have been no applications. We need commissioners from Waite Park, Sartell, or St Joseph.

Discussion about budget for Human Rights Commission—at least to pay for food for forums and a tent for summer events. Possible to receive food donations from Coborn's.

The Joint Powers Board has to meet and vote on this.

The commission still need the updated digital copy of the Joint Powers Board document stating the rights and responsibility of the St Cloud Area Regional Human Rights Commission. Heidi said that she would distribute this.

The commission has the right to have discussion forums and issue statements about human rights issues.

Meeting adjourned 7:00 pm