

Attendees: Eunice Aadjei, Sarah Drake, Judy Foster, Rachel Wexelbaum, Jonathan Wong

1. Welcome and introductions

What do you want to share?

Judy: In spite of regular stream of bad news, feeling encouraged about situation with local housing—try to stay focused on the positive things that are happening as much as possible—encouraged to see our young people standing up and stepping out

Sarah: Not happy to be back but happy for the trip and to see the happy faces seeing clean water—experience was beyond words; turned 40 when I was there—preparing exhibition at the Paramount—all portraits of people of color—can't recall ever seeing anything in St Cloud where there was art representing people of color

Jonathan: School started, everything got crazy because of school—not sure if it was the right decision but I will stick to it. It's all online and not the way I normally learn; still adjusting. MPA program. New program. Overwhelming but glad I am here today. Will give some updates later about bills getting passed.

Rachel: Wikipedia and conference work going great

Eunice: Overwhelmed due to two events—Jugaad kickoff and Community Cafe with the district

2. Approval of January minutes: January minutes approved

a) Update on statement to St Cloud Times

Sounds like a recommendation to state and Department of Human Rights and cities  
Confusing and legalese

Rachel will take the statement to Judith Siminoe to see if it is correct; Eunice will send a copy to Heidi Hovis

3. Review Joint Powers Board agreement—table this for March meeting

request from Judy to send agendas earlier

budget—Matt Glaesman will help out with food for forums and working on scheduling a Joint Powers board

#### 4. April Forum planning: Creating a Welcoming Community

Invite City Council members from St Cloud and St Joe to talk about welcoming resolutions, what do they mean, how will you act on them?

Judy having conversations with Jeff Johnson—she had concerns about the signs and said he should step up and speak out against these messages

Judy said that she sensed that he was not supportive of refugee community; he invited her to coffee but could not have a good conversation—long story short he was not taking responsibility—trying to build an relationship to maintain communication

Jeff Johnson wants to have a panel discussion that represents full spectrum of views on this with facilitation and ground rules—Judy recommended Denny Smith or Kevin

LaNave—Jeff Johnson wants to have Denny Smith be a facilitator on civil discourse for the City Council retreat—he was open about having more community conversation that was civil and respectful—Jeff Johnson claims that City Council is afraid to talk about it and too controversial

Judy followed up with Carol Lewis—suggested time when they could have a phone conversation—representing herself as private citizen

Tentative meeting dates:

Wed April 18, 6:00 - 7:30 or Wed April 25, 6:00 - 7:30

St Joe, St Cloud, Waite Park, Sauk Rapids, Sartell

Will revisit in March

#### 5. Update from Housing group

More energy and movement—talk about needing a regional approach to the homelessness—need elected officials from all five cities on board on this

Elected officials are afraid to get on board with affordable housing due to fear of backlash from the community—re-election will be at risk

Need to educate people on why not doing this will not get people elected

United Way planning a luncheon just for elected officials to begin discussing these topics of homelessness

GRIP/ISAIAH puts them in the spotlight

Focus will be on demonstrating to them the needs that exist in the community

Feb 8: United Way group had a meeting with Jerry Relph—District 14—he was actually very supportive of this regional approach to “Housing First” philosophy—expressed willingness to carry water with state and local officials—maybe he can talk to Michelle Fischbach

Jerry Relph has been an ally to African communities

Working group met with Patrick Shepard of Tri-Cap—how to incentivize landlords to rent to people with criminal records/reserve spots for these people—there is funding to subsidize landlords to put these folks into a property—Sherburne County most open to it—need to mobilize some letter writing and actions in regard to affordable housing  
At the next working group meeting, will strategize a campaign  
Youth Opportunity Center—hoping that the Rotary will lobby elective officials too  
Judy trying to talk to all the City Council members to get them to support some of this work

Judy will talk with Carol about conversations with Jeff Johnson and Housing Group

#### 6. Update on Community Policing Agreement—signing

Eunice sent an email to Community Policing Agreement for Eunice to be one of the signers—signing is at 12 pm

#### 7. Updates from the Human Rights Office

Legislative update: Two new bills—service animals—language very vague and open to interpretation; want to align language with federal / ADA law so it will be consistent

Want to simplify legal language for employers—when dealing with disability issues, the employers are not often interacting with the employees—legislation will state that the employer has to open the conversation with the employee

Not a lot of walk-ins this month but lots of phone calls

Department has been having meetings with community members about flyers and signs, along with SCSU, St Johns St Bens, STCCC, Tech High School, and elected officials—talked with Sheriff and police—Sheriff asked a lot of questions but still no response and no resolution—conversation going on in police department

Everyone has a different idea of how big St Cloud White Student Union is—from 2-3 to 50 people

Flyers have gone as far as Duluth

#### 8. Announcements

C-Cubed meeting—have been consistently showing up at City Council meetings to occupy the meetings and not friendly—create a hostile environment—alienating City Council  
8-10 people from C-Cubed to occupy the mike

John Palmer—Let Freedom Ring blog

2017—School bullying forum at Apollo High School—do we want to do one on this? Judy wants to do a housing forum in the summer—can we hold off on this until Judy has better sense? MDHR talking about disparity in suspension and expulsion among students of color and students with disabilities

—will pick this up again in March

9. Other

10. Adjourn 7:05 pm

Next meeting Wed Mar 28 6 pm