

Attendees: Judy Foster, Heidi Hovis, Rachel Wexelbaum, Jonathan Wong

Welcome and Introductions—talking about the summer; no formal welcome or introductions
What’s most exciting coming up in the next month or so that you want everyone to be a part of?

- Heidi will do a training for mediators in August through the Central Resolution Center to become a certified mediator
- Judy and partner will be going on vacation to Wisconsin to be with family
- Rachel excited for Wiki Loves Pride and her new position in the IFLA LGBTQ Special Interest Group
- Jonathan excited about Jugaad program, planning, and participation

Approval of minutes—no quorum, will approve in August

Report on last forum—Good information from the presentation, concerns about C-Cubed. Disappointing turnout. Nick pulled them in and they were contributing in a productive constructive manner. Judy said that the forum was originally supposed to be about creating a welcoming community, and she had invited Jeff Johnson and Carol Lewis. Jeff attended with some C-Cubed members and filmed it.

Judy followed up with Jeff to find out about area cities meetings—thought that there would be one in the end of August. Judy has to contact Matt Staling and find out if we can get on the agenda. Jonathan thought it was interesting—C-Cubed not the usual audience that we had—opened up a bridge to provide education and open up about what we are doing. This could be a very rare opportunity to engage with them and we can talk about every different issue that we care about. We may have some ideological differences but commonality may be a strong force to support human rights work. Recommendation to see “The Human Flow”.

Judy says wait til after the primaries maybe—asked if we could send letters to candidates running for election in November on their position on human rights. Information would be for local and state candidates.

Maybe we can publish the responses on our Human Rights Commission FB page, or partner with the St Cloud Times on a story idea.

How do you define human rights?

Can you give some examples of how you supported human rights?

Do you support local human rights commissions? How do you plan on working with local human rights offices and commissions and how would you use that going forward?

Name one particular protected class for which you have been advocating.

Judy will bring a draft to the August meeting.

Report from housing group—Judy had announced that Karen Burzette (Housing Coordinator for CentraCare and United Way) will be speaking at the Unitarian Universalist Church on August 5—not a public event; it is a practice run with a friendly supportive audience

Working Group meeting on 7/9: discussed Duluth Homeless Bill of Rights—Duluth City Council voting on this—Judy will do more research on this and share the document with us

Catholic Worker House in Duluth active working with the homeless

Judy talked with Kevin La Nave today—he is interested in outreach to the homeless and housing improvements—was in Duluth to visit with Catholic Worker House to discuss what they were doing

Nancy Dyson and her partner Jason, who live in tiny house in Sauk Rapids, have a shower truck—they will drive it and provide showers for the homeless—the truck will be called “Shower the People”.

Tiny House at St Johns on wheels: person still wants to live in this one and doesn't want to live in the new one that were built there—Nancy and Jason want it moved to their area in Sauk Rapids; church will need to decide

Judy will follow up with Matt Staehling re: area cities meeting, and see if Karen Burcett will present at the area cities meeting

Community Updates: Juneteenth update

Rachel working with trans youth

Jonathan focusing trans discrimination efforts at St Cloud Pride

Queer Peers meeting

Judy participated in a listening session held by MN Humanities Commission—they want to develop a strategic plan to address problem areas—Patrick Henry is on the board. St Cloud is a strange mix of people—conservative, racist, backward community—but we have a lot of really positive things going on through independent groups. Lot of community building and activism going on—strange mix of contradictions—we don't often see marginalized populations in the pillars and the community groups, according to Natalie Ringsmuth—John Smith has been

through the ringer with racism in St Cloud, but he is committed to making a good contribution in the community. Interesting gathering of people representing different aspects of the community. New Executive Director of the St Cloud Public Library was there—she is really good at doing community outreach—started the free lunch program.

Will need to talk about St Cloud Pride at the next meeting. Can we see if we have any language qualification for us?

Main Street—will we do something? Yes. 2nd Wednesday of fall semester; early September. Creative activity with swag.

Report from HRC office: From Heidi: Transgender rights—Chicago EEOC gave a training in Minneapolis—aggressively investigating transgender discrimination cases under current law. Seen an increase in employment discrimination cases. Have to look to federal law to find out how to address and what cases to take.

HRC Office still doing suspension/expulsion study—43 schools on the list to promise to reduce the number of race-based suspension/expulsion cases

Other

Adjourn