

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

Wed. July 15, 2015
6 pm – 7 pm

Attendees: Eunice Aadjei, Emily Ackerman, Angela Amic (guest), Judy Foster, Ayase Griesy (guest), Ray Maier, Rachel Wexelbaum, Val Young

Meeting called to order 6:05 pm

1. Welcome and introductions

Roundtable—one word to describe the June forum. Takeaway—there remains a lot of work to do on housing and homelessness in this area, people have a sense of urgency, rage and passion on this issue, and the forums revitalized some peoples' passion for community activism.

2. Open forum

Continuation from roundtable discussion

3. Approval of minutes

Minutes approved via email

4. Report from working group

Of the ten people who signed up, only four were able to attend the first meeting. Scheduling has been a challenge. The working group had its first meeting and Ann Cofell from Legal Aid said that the information provided at the forums was confusing and inaccurate. The first order of business for the working group will be to get the correct information to educate people. Legal Aid will do all the research and answering of questions on these issues.

Motion to use housing / homelessness distribution list to solicit questions to send to Legal Aid (Judy)—Rachel seconds—motion approved

One person on the working group following up with tiny house issue.

Confusion remains over the mayor's Homelessness Task Force.

Matt Glaesmann said it was the Homeless Concerns group, but three people in that group say they are unaware they were ever appointed by the Mayor's Office. A member of Homeless Concerns is also serving on the HRC Working Group and will act as liaison. Judy will try to follow up with Mayor Kleis regarding the task force he referenced.

5. Plan for September forum

- a. Space: Alumni Room, Atwood Memorial Union at SCSU. Space was chosen because we had flexibility of table/seating arrangements that the library does not have.

Plan for September forum continued

- b. Questions: We will tweak the questions that we use at all of the forums to accommodate climate at SCSU. Emily will work on those.
- c. Snacks: Can't bring because it is in Atwood—SCSU policy is that all Atwood events are catered by Sodexo (campus food service).
- d. Other:
The Commissioner will be coming to the forum. We will give him the first 15 minutes (10 min presentation, 5 min for Q+A) to address the following:
 - The role of the MN State Department of Human Rights, and his role and responsibilities as State Human Rights Commissioner;
 - When was the MN State Department of Human Rights established and why;
 - Statistics on the number and type of discrimination cases that the MN State Department of Human Rights takes on and how many are resolved successfully;
 - How many discrimination cases have been filed in St Cloud and resolved successfully--how many specifically from the university--how St Cloud compares to other parts of MN in terms of number and type of cases
 - May want to ask participants why that could be so--which would be a nice segway into the forum discussion as a wholeRachel also asked if any State Department of Human Rights fact sheets, brochures, and promotional materials could be provided.

We also will have the following materials at this forum:

- Statement about roles and responsibilities of St Cloud Human Rights Commission and St Cloud Human Rights Office
- Information about campus diversity/equity committees
- Student complaint policy
- Faculty 1B.1 policy
- ADA policies
- IFO equity committees
- Diversity Advisory Council

Rachel will get the campus entities to help provide this information during the forum.

Global Studies professor Linda Butenhoff volunteered her Intro to Global Studies students to us—they are required to perform 10 hours of community service for

the class. Some things that they can do for us before and during the forum:

- designing a flyer for the forum and advertising the forum on campus to all student organizations
- helping make handouts
- presence at forum to monitor a signup sheet (people would fill in their name, email, and phone number) and distribute materials
- passing around a microphone for people who want to speak

How students can help with “regular” HRC activities:

- attendance at our monthly meetings to find out what the commission is working on
- contributions to our quarterly newsletter and social media (articles, videos, etc)
- helping with research
- our newsletter person says WE NEED HELP CREATING GROUP EMAIL LISTS from databases!

Rachel is in touch with Linda about the students.

6. Budget and State MOU and Service agreement

Eunice and Rachel met with the Mayor and Mike Williams to discuss the housing/homelessness forums, and the HRC budget and reimbursement procedures came up. It turns out that HRC has \$3,000 allocated for its needs but we do not have a reimbursement procedure in place. Mike Williams is overseeing a trial run of a process to reimburse Ray for \$350 before we get to the big time numbers. In the meantime, Rachel is compiling our list of expenditures that we need to do outreach and promotion and will send that out to the commission. Eunice will invite the Mayor and Mike Williams to our August meeting to discuss the budget, but if they cannot make it we will schedule this upcoming budget meeting for another time.

7. Update from HR office: None—Rich not present

8. Other

9. Adjourn Meeting adjourned 7:10 pm

