

Present: Eunice Aadjei, Angela Amic (guest), Sam Ericson (guest), Judy Foster, Dr. James Fountain (guest), Ray Maier, Darrin Owskey (guest), Kerry Risberg, Mark Vargas (guest), Rachel Wexelbaum, Val Young

1. Welcome and introductions

Round table introductions; 1 new commissioner Kerry Risberg and 5 community members!

2. Open forum

Questions asked at the forum focused on responsibilities of Human Rights Office and Human Rights Commission, examples of what we have done, and when would be appropriate to contact the Human Rights Office. Eunice directed community members to the City Hall website to get Rich's contact info.

Discussion about discrimination. MA patient law forbids patients from filing a lawsuit against the state; we were asked if Rich could investigate this.

3. Update on holiday survey

Survey results were inconclusive; the holiday gathering conversations provided much more valuable feedback. Feedback from holiday gathering included:

HRC should do MORE OUTREACH and go to the people; hold meetings in different locations and show up at community events.

Focuses should include Section 8 housing and collaboration with other groups in the region

HRC should work more closely with SCSU

4. 2015 goals and outreach of HRC

Based on feedback that we received, and discussion at today's forum, the HRC's 2015 goals are as follows:

- a. Four "forums": SCSU location, forum with housing/homeless theme, summer barbecue/potluck, holiday gathering forum;
- b. SCSU outreach activities: Main Street, table at Atwood, reaching out to Dept of Campus Involvement: Civic Engagement, reaching out to Nursing Department and other departments/programs/organizations interested in human rights; Rachel

will be meeting with Mark Vargas and Bruce Busby to discuss “human rights education” at SCSU;

- c. Table at St Cloud Pride;
- d. Panel discussion with Create Community;
- e. Collaboration with GRIP, Create Community, St Cloud OUT, the new non-profit Central Minnesota Community and Economic Development (Dr. James Fountain)

Discussion about GRIP and their community conversations focused on four different themes—they did 60 in one year—Rachel asked if we could invite someone from GRIP to talk to us during our February meeting about these conversations to give us some ideas.

5. HRC Office---- update on reimbursement

Rich sent the receipts to St Paul and they received them—waiting for reimbursement. Rich is on medical leave recovering from outpatient surgery. No other news to report from HRC office.

6. Other

ACTION ITEMS:

Eunice: Ask City Hall to make a sign for our meetings, and contact Annie from GRIP to come (or have someone from GRIP come) to our February meeting;

Judy: Will send HRC GRIP minutes and updates about their events;

Ray: Update newsletter mailing list to include new attendees; get current list of mayors and city council members from each Joint Powers city and add them to mailing list; start working on first 2015 newsletter; pricing for more brochures—might have to update brochures.

Rachel: Continue promoting HRC meetings and events through social media and SCSU channels; will meet with Mark Vargas and Bruce Busby to discuss “human rights education” at SCSU; will contact Beth Knutson-Kolozdne about getting a table for Main Street and suggestions on how to be present at other SCSU events

Val: Contact radio, local TV, and newspaper about our meetings and forums to advertise in traditional media;

Kerry: Is willing to help as needed—contact her for a helping hand!

7. Adjourn Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Next Human Rights Meeting: Wed Feb 18 6 pm St Cloud City Hall