

McHENRY COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2006

The meeting of the McHenry County Human Relations Council was called to order at 7:07p.m. on February 15, 2006 with the following members present: Mario Perez, Chairman; Kathy Seith, Susan Stelford, Walter Liedtke, John Jung, Anna May Miller, and Holly Eddy (Don Riggerbach, and Virginia Peschke absent). Also in attendance: Lu Ness and Sister Marie and Sister Mary of the Cross of the Fraternity of Notre Dame.

MINUTES

The commission reviewed the minutes of November 16, 2005. Mr. Jung moved to accept the minutes of November 16, 2005 as amended. Motion seconded by Ms. Miller and carried with all ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Ness informed the council that she is interested in joining the Human Relations Council again. Following discussion, Ms. Seith moved to recommend the appointment of Lu Ness to the Human Relations Council. Motion seconded by Ms. Miller and carried with all ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Perez informed the council that the Harvard Human Relations Council hasn't gotten back to him about the possibility of a joint meeting.

Book Donation - Ms. Stelford presented a press release for the donation of books to the McHenry County College. Ms. Stelford informed the council that McHenry County College does not allow photo opportunities due to the numerous donations of material that they receive. Following review, Ms. Seith moved to approve and authorize the press release as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Miller and carried with all ayes.

Essay Contest - Ms. Stelford presented the council with a draft entry form and press release for the King Tut Essay Contest. Mr. Perez informed the council that the Bar Association essay contest normally gets a good response. The council will put the entry form on the Human Relations Council website. Following review, Mr. Jung moved to approve the press release as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Seith. Following discussion, Mr. Jung moved to amend the original motion to include the approval of the entry form. Motion seconded by Ms. Seith and carried with all ayes. Ms. Stelford will narrow the essays down to the top twenty and send to Ms. Eddy. Ms. Eddy will scan them into the computer and email to the members. Ms. Seith will generate a certificate for Mr. Perez's signature to distribute to the winners. The five winners will be announced at the May 17, 2006 meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The council was joined by representatives of the Fraternite of Notre Dame from Marengo. Sisters Marie and Mary of the Cross provided the council with the history of the Fraternite of Notre Dame and it's ministry in Marengo. Earlier this year, statutes at

the Marengo site were vandalized. The sisters informed the council that the Order does not believe teenagers were responsible for the damage, but rather adults who were against the order being there. The council asked the sisters what they could do to help the Order. The sisters suggested that maybe the council could somehow let people know what they do and that they are just here to help people. Sister Mary of the Cross informed the council that people have gone on to the property with flash lights and one day a car came up the driveway without its headlights on. Ms. Ness suggested the order hold a public forum at the facility. Ms. Miller suggested the ministry schedule a meeting with officials from Marengo and have an open forum in a neutral location. Ms. Stelford doesn't feel that the public would attend a forum and suggested that the council involve the Order in events that the council hosts or becomes involved with. Mr. Liedtke asked if the sisters felt that anything positive came from the press coverage that they received and suggested that perhaps the papers can publish an article on something positive that the Order does. The sisters informed the council that they would have to talk to the Sister in Charge to see if she wants the council to do anything.

The council discussed changing the meeting time. Following discussion, Mr. Jung moved to change the regular meeting time to 6:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Ms. Seith and carried with all ayes.

Mr. Perez informed the council that the Treasurer position is vacant with the recent resignation of Charles Nolan. Mr. Liedtke volunteered to serve as Treasurer.

Ms. Eddy will update the web page. Mr. Perez will talk to David from Afterglow and see if there is a possibility of obtaining a copy of the tape "Emphasizing the Similarities."

The council discussed the feasibility of conducting diversity training. Following discussion, Mr. Jung moved to establish a committee to investigate diversity training. The committee shall consist of Lu Ness and Kathy Seith. Motion seconded by Ms. Stelford and carried with all ayes.

Motion to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. by Ms. Seith. Ms. Motion seconded by Mr. Liedtke and carried with all ayes.