

McHENRY COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2007

The meeting of the McHenry County Human Relations Council was called to order at 6:08 p.m. on March 21, 2007 with the following members present: Lou Ness, Chairman; Kathy Seith, Susan Stelford, Virginia Peschke, Anna May Miller, and Holly Eddy (Efrin Orville, Mario Perez, Walter Liedtke, John Jung, and Don Riggenbach absent).

MINUTES

The council reviewed the minutes from January 17, 2007. Following discussion, Ms. Seith moved to accept the minutes of January 17, 2007 as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Peschke and carried with all ayes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

OLD BUSINESS

The council reviewed the bylaws that were amended at the January, 2007 meeting. Following discussion, Ms. Seith moved to accept the bylaws as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Miller and carried with all ayes.

The council discussed the Piñata Project. Ms. Stelford informed the council that attempts to contact Gale Trausch at Greenwood Elementary concerning the Piñata Project have been unsuccessful. Ms. Miller suggested requesting the schools put the project on their curriculum for the next school year. Ms. Peschke will attempt to contact Ms. Trausch.

Ms. Stelford informed the council that we did not receive enough calendar entries to generate a calendar. Ms. Stelford will send out a letter that they are on display at the government center and will return the pictures at the end of the month. The council discussed inviting the Co-Op Extension and the 4-H to participate in future contests.

Ms. Stelford provided an update on the mural which was co-sponsored by the council. The estimated completion date is late May or early June. The mural will be displayed in the court building of the Government Center.

Ms. Seith informed the council that the internet site has been updated and requested the council review the site and provide feedback.

2006 Yearly Summary – The council determined that Ms. Ness would develop the presentation for the County Board after the material is obtained from Mr. Perez.

2007 Action Plan – Ms. Ness requested the council members think about items for both 2007 and 2008. One suggestion was to look at the face of poverty in McHenry County. The council discussed posting useful tips on the website and ways to raise awareness about poverty. Ms. Peschke stated that, in the past, the council attempted to raise awareness of fair housing through HOPE. Following discussion, it was determined that the problem of poverty in McHenry County is beyond the scope of the council and not a

problem we can solve. The council discussed broadening the scope and focus to include more than area schools or perhaps narrowing the focus on one class.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Ness informed the council that she received a phone call from a woman that has bi-racial children. The children have been experiencing harassment from classmates at school. Ms. Ness suggested the woman write a letter to the council explaining in detail what happened. Ms. Seith recommended the woman report the incident to Illinois Human Relations. The ILHR would perform an investigation and find out if there is appropriate training being done by the school. The council discussed possibly sponsoring some training opportunities throughout the school year and perhaps offering the services of Ms. Seith. Ms. Seith feels that the council should find out if the schools have a system in place and work with the schools. Ms. Miller suggested the council talk to the Regional Superintendent of Schools to find out the most appropriate method of obtaining information on current diversity training practices and offering to work with them.

Motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. by Ms. Seith. Motion seconded by Ms. Peschke and carried with all ayes.