



City of Cedar Rapids
Civil Rights Commission
Outreach & Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 5, 2015
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Dr. Emily Bowman, Chair
Mr. Leland Freie
Ms. Ashley Reynolds (Conference Call)

Staff Present: Ms. LaSheila Yates, Executive Director
Mr. Bernie Walther, Investigator
Ms. Alicia Abernathey, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Johnny Sevier, Public Allie Intern

Call to Order – Dr. Emily Bowman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Introduction – LaSheila Yates, Executive Director, introduced Johnny Sevier and explained his role while he is with the Commission until July 2016.

Approval of Minutes – Leland Freie moved to approve the minutes from the September meeting. Ashley Reynolds seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Old Business -

1. Outreach Report

Bernie Walther, Investigator, presented the monthly outreach report showing events and trainings that were held in September following the last meeting. Some of the outreach events included Donna the Dolphin performances and Executive Director Yates attended many meetings on behalf of the Commission.

Ms. Yates stated she has been working on State of the Equity follow up in the public sector by meeting with various City Directors. The meetings are to determine what is working well and what challenges they are facing with diversity recruitment.

Mr. Walther stated the Superhero Walk will take place on October 17th with a Donna appearance and the EEOC Training is tentatively scheduled for November 5th and 6th.

New Business –

1. Quarterly Trainings Update

Mr. Walther stated the contract with EEOC is under review by their staff and is tentatively set for November 5th and 6th. One training will be for staff and Commissioners and the other will be for Human Resources professionals. Mr. Walther stated staff is working on a registration system. Mr. Walther stated staff is also working to schedule mediation training in February that will be open to the public including landlords and Human Resources professionals. Mr. Walther stated staff is working to schedule fair housing trainings in April in regards to homeownership and fair lending.

Mr. Walther stated staff is still working on having a movie night but the library is closed on Martin Luther King Day so staff is looking into other potential dates.

2. Smartphone Application Update

Alicia Abernathey, Administrative Assistant, stated the smartphone application is complete and will be launched next week. The application was launched in April 2014 but was not the desired application and staff has been working with Victory Enterprises to update the application with the new logo and other desired features. Ms. Abernathey thanked Commissioner Reynolds for testing the android beta and providing feedback.

Ms. Abernathey also stated the Civil Rights banners will be displayed on 1st Street SE and 1st Street SW for the month of October.

Ms. Yates stated the Commission, along with Kay Fisk, ADA Committee Chair, and Tom Hardecopf, ADA Vice Chair, accepted the National Disability Employment Awareness Proclamation at the September 22nd City Council meeting.

Commissioner Reynolds moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:22 p.m. Commissioner Freie seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Alicia Abernathey