



City of Cedar Rapids
Civil Rights Commission

Outreach & Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 14, 2015
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Commissioners Present: Mr. Leland Freie
Ms. Ashley Reynolds

Commissioners Absent: Dr. Emily Bowman, Chair

Staff Present: Mr. Bernie Walther, Investigator
Ms. Alicia Abernathey, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order – Leland Freie, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – Ashley Reynolds moved to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Leland Freie 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 November. Mr. Walther stated trainings included Foundation 2 staff training and Leadership of Five Seasons training. Mr. Walther stated staff also attended the Police Academy Graduation Ceremony.

New Business –

1. Quarterly Trainings Update

a. EEOC

Mr. Walther stated staff is still working on the contract with the EEOC and once the contract is signed a date will be determined. Staff is planning on the training in February, March or the summer. The training will be geared toward HR professionals.

b. Mediation

Mr. Walther stated Mediation training is set for February 9th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and will be conducted by Annie Tucker. The training is open to the public but staff plans to target HR professionals, large employers and landlords. The training will be held at the Cedar Rapids Police Department. Information for the training is on the Commission's Facebook page, Twitter page and website. Individuals interested in attending must register for the training.

c. Fair Lending

Mr. Walther stated staff is trying to partner with the Cedar Rapids Realtors Association and they are sharing the proposed agenda with their outreach committee in January. The contract with John Marshall Law School is currently under review and the training will be held in April.

2. Upcoming Outreach Events

a. Selma

Mr. Walther stated the date for the movie night of “Selma” will be January 17th from 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the Whipple Auditorium in the Cedar Rapids Library. Representatives from the Cedar Rapids Human Resources Department, the Linn County Human Resources Department and the Cedar Rapids Community School District will be present for a public employment job fair. There will also be information pertaining to the Fair Housing Poster Contest. Individuals interested in attending must register for the event.

b. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Proclamation

Alicia Abernathey, Administrative Assistant, stated a Proclamation will be presented at the January 12th City Council meeting making January 18th Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Five members of the public will join staff in accepting the Proclamation. The Proclamation will also be presented at the “Selma” movie night on January 17th.

c. Human Rights Month Proclamation

Ms. Abernathey stated a Human Rights Month Proclamation will be presented at the December 15th City Council meeting at 4:00 PM. Eight members of the public were invited to accept the Proclamation with staff.

d. Traveling Display

Ms. Abernathey stated the traveling display of Iowa Civil Rights history, from the African American Museum, is currently on display in City Hall. It will be displayed in the City Hall lobby until December 21st.

Commissioner Freie moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:48 p.m. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Alicia Abernathey