



City of Cedar Rapids
Civil Rights Commission
Outreach & Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 11, 2015
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Dr. Emily Bowman, Chair
Mr. Leland Freie
Ms. Ashley Reynolds

Staff Present: Mr. Johnny Alcivar Zuniga, Outreach Coordinator
Ms. Alicia Abernathey, Administrative Assistant

Meeting started at 4:10 p.m.

Public Response - No public present.

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

Old Business -

1. Outreach Report

Johnny Alcivar Zuniga presented the monthly outreach report showing events and trainings that were held in April. Mr. Alcivar Zuniga explained April was Fair Housing Month and 525 people received training. Mr. Alcivar Zuniga also explained the report was modified to include a rating column and knowledge gained column.

Mr. Alcivar Zuniga mentioned various community events that Commissioners or staff took part in during the month of April and also outlined upcoming events.

Dr. Emily Bowman asked how staff is gaging the knowledge gain for large groups. Mr. Alcivar Zuniga stated staff is looking into various options for large groups.

Commissioner Reynolds moved to approve the Outreach Report. Commissioner Freie seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

New Business –

1. FY16 Education and Outreach Action Plan Discussion

Mr. Alcivar Zuniga stated the previous plan was included in the packet for reference and it addresses outreach activities for the current fiscal year. Mr. Alcivar Zuniga asked commissioners what they would like to see in the next plan including what should be carried over from the current plan and what should be removed.

Commissioner Freie asked if there would be funding for a poster contest to take place in FY16. Mr. Alcivar Zuniga stated there was leftover money from the previous contest but it has not been decided what will happen with the funds. Mr. Alcivar Zuniga stated the Executive Director,

LaSheila Yates, would like to have the poster contest each year to provide scholarship funds to youth. However, the funds were provided by HUD and are not guaranteed for future years.

Commissioner Bowman asked if staff considered expanding the contest to include an essay contest or considered a contest for employment posters, etc. Mr. Alcivar Zuniga stated staff can look into the essay contest for future years but because it is HUD funded the topic would have to be fair housing related.

Commissioner Reynolds suggested the Commission look into partnering with Neighborhood Associations to host movie nights in the various neighborhoods.

Commissioner Bowman stated the Commission is having a State of Equity discussion at the next meeting on May 20th and it would make more sense to discuss the Outreach Plan after the work session with Al Rowe. This would allow the plan to align with the goals of the Commission.

The Committee agreed to discuss the Outreach Plan further following the May 20th Commission meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Alicia Abernathey