



City of Cedar Rapids
Civil Rights Commission
Outreach & Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 1, 2016
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

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

Staff Present: Ms. LaSheila Yates, Executive Director
Mr. Bernie Walther, Investigator
Ms. Alicia Abernathey, Administrative Assistant
Mr. John Sevier, AmeriCorp Public Allies Apprentice
Ms. Sophie Belter, Intern

Call to Order – Dr. Emily Bowman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – Leland Freie moved to approve the minutes from the December 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 December and January. Mr. Walther stated PFLAG and Immigrants Concern have requested staff trainings, “Selma” movie night was a successful event with over 30 people in attendance and Mediation and Fair Lending are our upcoming trainings.

New Business –

1. Poster Contest

Sophie Belter, Intern, stated the contest will be broken into two groups based on grade rather than age. The community schools will be used as a channel of communication and will help get the word out to students. Ms. Belter stated there will be a first place winner and a runner up from each group and they will receive a participation prize, scholarship money and will have their poster displayed in their school. Ms. Belter stated the Outreach Committee or all Commissioners can serve as judges and the estimated cost is approximately \$1,500.

2. Fair Housing Training

Johnny Sevier, AmeriCorp Public Allie Apprentice, stated the Fair Housing training will be an interactive training that participants will complete to receive a certification. CRCRC staff will be notified when the training is complete to track who completed the course. There will be a confidential survey included in the training for participants to rate the training and the customer service they received.

3. Internship Program

LaSheila Yates, Executive Director, stated two part time intern positions were funded through leftover money. The interns will focus on outreach efforts as well as assist with investigations.

4. 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 having the training in May.

b. Mediation

Mr. Walther stated Mediation training is set for February 9th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The training will be held at the Cedar Rapids Police Department.

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 February but see no issues with partnering. The training will be held on April 12th.

d. FY17 Training Ideas

Mr. Walther stated staff is looking into public accommodations training for the public that would include a piece on service animals. Staff is also looking into a training for veterans that would include ADA training.

5. Summer Outreach Events

Mr. Walther pointed out various outreach events that will take place this summer including AsainFest, PrideFest, Festival Latino, Stand Down Event, ADA Celebration and Juneteenth.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Alicia Abernathy