



City of Cedar Rapids
Civil Rights Commission

Outreach & Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 18, 2016

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

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

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

Call to Order – Dr. Emily Bowman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Bowman stated with no changes to the minutes they stand approved.

Old Business –

1. Fair Housing Poster Contest Update

Bernie Walther, Investigator, stated several posters were received for entry and multiple are in Spanish or Swahili. There were 14 entries for the Kindergarten through 5th grade age group. The 6th grade through 12th grade age group had 21 entries with 29 participants as one teacher made it a group project. The teacher also had the students watch videos on fair housing before working on the posters.

Commissioner Reynolds arrived at 4:37 p.m.

Mr. Walther stated the commissioners have been invited to vote between now and Wednesday. They will vote for two posters in each age group. If there happens to be a tie staff will vote as a tie breaker. When the winners are determined the hope is to have a presentation at the school where the student attends. The hope is to also have the winning posters displayed in the school.

2. Outreach Report

Mr. Walther stated the Facebook numbers have gone up a lot as more people are liking our page. The ratings have not changed as they were none for this month. Staff is participating in a lot of trainings this week as there is a Rental Business Training, NAACP general knowledge training and the second Mediation training. Staff has provided trainings to landlords to ensure they were in compliance with their settlement agreements. Staff also conducted Fair Lending training and participated in the Arc March with a Donna the Dolphin appearance.

3. Quarterly Trainings Update

Mr. Walther stated the EEOC quarterly training has been cancelled as there is still no contract in place. Instead, staff will be inviting the Great Plains ADA to provide a public accommodations training in August. Staff is also looking into a training that relates to Veterans and the ADA. The goal is to hold this training in October or November and do some outreach/advertising at the Veteran's Stand Down event in early September.

4. Summer Outreach Events

Mr. Walther stated staff has signed up for the summer outreach events and commissioners are invited to sign up to join staff at the events.

Commissioner Bowman stated she will share the information with the Commission at their regular meeting and ask them to share their availability with staff.

5. FHAP Outreach Budget

Mr. Walther and Alicia Abernathey, Administrative Assistant, provided brief descriptions of some of the items listed in the outreach budget such as bus ads, trivia wheel, history timeline, promotional materials, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Alicia Abernathey