

Moorhead Human Rights Commission Minutes
October 9, 2007
Churches United for the Homeless

Members present: Del Rae Williams, Phyllis Emmel, Miguel Baldaras, Dianne Wray Williams, Kevin Kopperud, Doreen Neeland, Tammie Yak, Stephanie Chimerezi, Erin Clark, Stephanie Clark

Members absent: Brian Arett, Richard Adler

1. Introductions

2. Approval of agenda

Williams moved to approve the agenda, Emmel seconded. Motion passed.

3. Citizens to be heard

Duke Schempp from PEPP and Cindy Shawcross from Mujeres Unidas discussed the 2002 Moorhead study of police traffic stops done by Mark Hansel. The MHRC has put this in their 2003 annual report and was asked to report on continued data. A second year of traffic stops data was collected in 2003, but the results have not been released. Mr. Schempp asked the MHRC to request the police department release the 2003 Traffic Stop report. It was reiterated by Ms. Bradford that they would like the information to start a dialogue, but without the results they do not have a place to begin. The 2002 report can be found at <http://pepp.org/oldsite/profile/2002report.pdf>. Wray Williams stated that even the 2003 report will now be four years old. She would like to see a current update from the police department on their progress towards the goals on the matrix. Yak, the Chair will request this information from the police department. Baldaras would like to attend. Emmel moved that the MHRC pay costs for anyone who would like to go, Williams seconded. Motion passed.

Williams moved that a letter requesting the 2003 results be written to the police department, seconded by Neeland. Motion passed.

4. Reports of the Chair, Officers, Commissioners, and Committees

Emmel brought forward an opportunity for commissioners to attend a Dismantling Racism conference in the Twin Cities to be held October 19 to 21.

Williams reminded commissioners that the MHRC will be hosts for Pangea on November 10. She asked for volunteers.

5. Report on MLHRC Conference

Emmel, Neeland, Williams, and Yak attend the annual conference at Milles Lac. They reported there was much information and many speakers.

6. Building Equitable Communities Conference

Wray Williams reported on attendance to this conference and the exciting things this could mean for Moorhead. The next step will be a meeting with the conference team and the MHRC to tentatively be held during the next MHRC meeting November 13.

7. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Emmel, Wray Williams, and Yak attended this meeting with the EEOC and other area HRC's. The EEOC is a federal option for reporting employment rights issues.

8. New Business

a. Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day is Monday December 10. Yak suggested that the commission think about poor attendance of previous events and suggested the MHRC do a joint event with Robert Asp and the second graders that are piloting the "This is my home" curriculum. Yak motioned to open discussion with Robert Asp team members regarding a joint Human Rights Day event, Williams seconded. Motion passed.

b. Human Rights Awards

Williams reported that the awards have historically been given during a Martin Luther King Jr. day event and that a press release and nomination requests need to be done. Williams will work on this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm