

City of Pekin
Human Rights Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2014; 7:30am

- I. Welcome and introductions – Present: Pamela Anderson, Melinda Figge, Bill Fleming, Roger Goodson, Lynn Johnson, Michelle Moul, Danielle Owens, Gregg Ratliff, Becky Saban, and Linda Seth.

- II. Approval of minutes – On a motion by Ratliff, second by Goodson, the minutes of the November 20, 2013 meeting were approved.

- III. Correspondence and feedback – none

- IV. Old Business
 - A. Come Together proposed mural discussion – Anderson contacted Bob Blackwell from the Pekin Park District to discuss mural(s) placement in the park. Their discussions will continue. Figge noted a grant is available from the Community Foundation of Central Illinois that could be applicable to this project. On a motion by Fleming, second by Ratliff, the committee asked Figge to pursue this grant. The committee also discussed the potential for this project to be part of a bigger arts festival or tie in with the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act.

 - B. HRC message / service organizations / possible outlines – There was not an opportunity to present at a joint January meeting of Rotary & Kiwanis. Owens is the Rotary program in late February but wants to move it later in the spring. Perhaps this would be the time to present to Rotary. Moul/Anderson could present information about the HRC and the projects we are working on. This might get the clubs involved.

 - C. Community read project – The Big Read grant application is due next week. We will need to match it with local, non-federal dollars. We would also need to use “A Lesson Before Dying” if we get the grant. On a motion by Goodson, second by Saban, the committee asked Figge to pursue this grant opportunity in partnership with the Pekin Public Library.

- V. New Business

Next meetings: February 26, 2014

A. MLKJ events

- a. The Pekin Coalition for Equality had 197 people attend their program on Saturday morning at the Pekin Public Library. Students from Willow school performed and the speakers were Doris Symonds and Denise Moore. The event received great media coverage, both before and after.
- b. The City of Pekin purchased 2 tables of 10 to the MLK luncheon in Peoria. The program speaker, Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, was challenging, thought-provoking, controversial, and entertaining.
- c. Anderson didn't participate in the march after the luncheon, but did attend the commemorative service at the end of the march and encouraged others to do so in the future.

B. **All the Little Snow Angels** – Moul presented a Hallmark Christmas ornament that included a small book about the “diversity” of snow angels. The committee agreed it would be an interesting way to get the message into the hands of children. The committee encouraged Moul to contact Hallmark and ask about the availability of 200 ornaments/booklets that we could distribute to each primary school room in the public & private schools, and to before and after school care programs.

C. **2014 Plan** – Moul asked the committee to come to the February meeting prepared to spend the majority of the agenda on a plan for this year. Seth suggested we write a specific goal for the year, then add activities and tactics to support/achieve the goal.

VI. Other business to come before the committee

- A. Committee members – none
- B. Committee advisory members – none
- C. City staff – none
- D. Public – none
- E. Press – none

IV. **Adjournment** – the meeting adjourned at 8:28am.