

City of Pekin Human Rights Committee Minutes

February 24, 2016; 7:30am; City of Pekin Front Conference Room

I. Welcome and introductions – Meeting called order by Danielle Owens at 7:30 a.m. Present: Melinda Figge, Bill Fleming, Roger Goodson, Daniell Owens, Linda Seth and Adrienne Southerland. Also Present: Pamela Anderson, John Dossey.

II. Approval of minutes (December 2015)- On a motion by Figge, second by Southerland, the minutes of the December meeting were approved as presented.

III. Correspondence and feedback – None

IV. Old Business

A. Bridges Out of Poverty (update) - Anderson has established a schedule of the Day 1 workshops for 2016. They will occur on a day in the last week of even numbered months. 18 are signed up for the February workshop. Information and registration is available on the city's website. Anderson will send the flyer to members so they can distribute to their circle of influence.

B. MLKJ luncheon (Peoria/wrap up)- Benjamin Jealous was a good speaker this year and those that attended thought it was a good event. Anderson is working on securing two tables for the City of Pekin again in 2017.

C. MLKJ celebration (Pekin/wrap up)- Figge reported the YWCA breakfast on Saturday was good. The program was good, but may have been over the head for some students. The crowd also got smaller as the event went on, particularly after a student group performed. The program schedule will be adjusted next year. Grace United Methodist Church provided free use of their facilities and the Y hopes to use that again next year.

D. Denise La Grassa (update) – Figge, Anderson, and Shannon Cox met twice with Denise La Grassa to discuss her appearance at the HRC event. It is planned for Friday, September 23, 2016 at the Speakeasy Art Center. The committee viewed a video of some of her performances. It was a good message, though some committee members were not fans of "performance art." The committee also viewed a video on Rick Lewis, an Art Professor from ISU. The committee is considering inviting him and another artist to exhibit their work at the Speakeasy at the same time.

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V. New Business

A. CDBG / City funding – There is still \$1,800 left in this year's budget that could be spent by the end of April. The committee was encouraged to submit their ideas to Anderson. Anderson also reported she made a presentation to the city council on the CDBG/HUD annual plan. They will vote on that plan at their March 14th meeting.

VI. Other business to come before the committee – none

A. Committee members The committee briefly discussed the need for a planning session (strategic?) to discuss our work. In particular, answering the questions, “Why do we do this?” “What's the end game?” and “How do we know we're making an impact?” No decisions or recommendations were made.

B. Committee advisory members - none

C. City staff - none

VIII. Adjournment – next meeting date March 23, 2016

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