

City of Pekin Human Rights Committee Minutes

July 27th, 2016; 7:30am; CJ's cafe

I. Welcome and introductions – Present: Brian Byrne, Bill Fleming, Danielle Owens, Becky Saban, Linda Seth, Adrienne Southerland,

II. Approval of minutes (June 2016)- The minutes of the June meeting were approved on a motion by Byrne, second by Southerland.

III. Correspondence and feedback – none received

IV. Old Business

- A. The Blues Ain't a Color – A performance by Denise LaGrassa at the Speakeasy Art Center on Friday, September 23rd, with the time TBD. Figge confirmed with Denise. In light of recent events (shootings) she is weaving more of that dialogue into her show. She wants her art to lead to sincere conversations about the challenges we face. She is still talking to PBS crews about taping her performance in Pekin but nothing is set yet. If they tape here they would want to also record any community dialogue that we host in conjunction with her performance. Her presentation is about 70 minutes. The cost of the performance is \$800, which can be underwritten by the HRC, YWCA and the Diversity Festival. www.deniselagrassa.com
- B. Marigold Festival performer – Josiah Williams is all set
- C. Strategic planning
 - a. What's been done?
 - i. Diversity Festival
 - ii. Come Together banner
 - iii. Books/Authors/Speakers/Community Reads
 - b. What can we do better?
 - i. We discussed using the “come together” brand more effectively; need to use the artwork more; and use the theme more.
 - ii. The HRC could take a more proactive role and help promote the Stand Against Racism program, including getting it more into schools and businesses.
 - iii. The HRC should budget their expenses better so that we don't end the year spending money on “trinkets” just to get it spent.
 - c. What new things can we do?
 - i. Take the message to service clubs, classrooms, churches, etc.

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- ii. Peace for Peoria or some similar educational program on different religions,
- iii. Institute for the Healing of Racism – Brian participated in this program in Grand Rapids; Six weeks, with 3 hours per session; video, lecture, discussion

V. New Business

- A. Bridges out of Poverty Day 1 workshop – August 30th at the Peking Public library; registration is through the City of Pekin web site; please plan to attend one of the Bridges workshops
- B. We Are Called To Rise – Jeff Brooks has booked the author, Laura McBride, for a visit on October 25th. Total cost is \$5,500, with the YWCA in for \$1,000; HRC for \$1,000; Friends of the Library will sponsor and Jeff will work on a Community Foundation grant. He'll also look for a companion children's book for the HRC to promote/distribute in some way.

VI. Other business to come before the committee

- A. Committee members
- B. Committee advisory members
- C. City staff
 - 1. \$2,000 total budget (remaining \$550.00 until April 30, 2017)
 - a. \$250.00 Denise La Grassa Speakeasy performance (September 23, 2015 meeting)
 - b. \$200.00 Josiah Williams / Pekin Marigold Festival (June 22, 2016 meeting)
 - c. \$1,000 of HRC CDBG dollars was used to purchase 2 tables for the MLKJ luncheon in Peoria on January 2017.

VIII. Adjournment

Next meeting is August 24th at City Hall.

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