

McHenry County Human Relations Council
Meeting Minutes
2/16/05

Present: Holly Eddy, John Jung, Judy Kettmann, Anna May Miller, Efren Ovalle, Virginia Peschke, Kathy Seith

Absent: Mary Bello, Charles Noland, Mario Perez, Don Riggenbach

The meeting was held at the McHenry County Government Center and was called to order at 7:09 PM by Efren.

Anna May motioned to approve the November 17, 2004 minutes as presented. Kathy seconded. Motion carried.

There was no public participation.

New Business

Efren has a new email address – ovalleent@aol.com

Old Business

As suggested in the 11/17/04 minutes, Werner Ellmann has missed more than three meeting in a row without notifying the council. Therefore the Council considers his membership officially over. Judy volunteered to send him a letter confirming his status and thank him for his many years of service to the Council.

We will need to find a replacement as quickly as possible and someone suggested we should advertise the vacancy by posting information at MCC.

New Business

Anna May asked about our presentation for April and if we could hold it at MCC. Several months ago Mary had volunteered to make the arrangements for us to meet at MCC but she was absent from the last few meetings and we had not heard from her about this matter. Virginia volunteered to email Mary and let us know what she found out.

Anna May asked if it was possible that our March meeting could be held in Harvard with the Harvard Human Relations Committee. Their phone number is 815-985-7595. Virginia said she will call Jerry Alton and email us – could we go there? could they come here?

Virginia also mentioned the housing/trailers situation in Harvard. Perhaps there is some HUD money available, and maybe she could help those who needed repairs to access the HUD money.

Kathy mentioned that the Woodstock Cultural Diversity Commission meets the fourth Monday of each month. She and Mario are members of this group. Kathy passed out copies of a letter addressed to Olson Middle School. According to the letter the Commission is sponsoring an art project for the students in District 200 boundaries. The theme of the project is to design artwork that can be used in a plaque format that promotes cultural diversity awareness. The Commission plans to develop a plaque from the artwork, and honor those individuals, organization or groups, who promote inclusive programs. There will be three divisions: middle school, freshman/sophomore and junior/senior division. One piece of artwork will be chosen from each division. The final piece that will be used to represent the Commission will be chosen from the

three finalists. Entries, accepted from February 20 through April 8, 2005, must be submitted to the Human Resources Department at the Woodstock City Hall, 121 W. Calhoun Street. For further information contact Kevin Kirwan at 815-334-1748 or 847-526-5020. One finalist from each division will receive recognition, and will be awarded a \$50.00 savings bond. One of the three finalists will be awarded first place and will receive another \$50.00 savings bond. The Commission will announce the winning entries at their regularly scheduled meeting in April.

John volunteered to attend the Commission's February 28 meeting and represent the Council.

We spoke again about possibly moving our meeting location to the Administration building. The Plan Commission met there and apparently it worked fine. John volunteered to look into this for us and tell Virginia and either she or Anna May will email us.

Regarding public participation it was mentioned that in the past an Apache woman had attended. Other past attendees recounted problems that had occurred in schools. At Parkland School during an assembly for junior high students some youth yelled names at other students. We also mentioned Garden Quarter where a student help center has been created and the result is a considerable reduction in the number of calls to the McHenry Police Department.

We returned to the topic of Harvard and the trailer parks, and vendors who provided excellent repair service (not sure if the repairs mentioned were provided to Harvard residents or to some of our Council members) but two names noted for electrical repairs were Blue Ribbon and Done Right.

Kathy brought in the printed brochures. They are packaged in quantities of 100 each. Members were asked to take as many of them as they wanted and to pass them around. Anna May motioned to pay Bold Business Graphics & Systems, Inc. \$787.23 (their Invoice 041110-013) for printing our brochures and Virginia seconded. Motion carried. Then we realized we were charged tax (and freight). We are tax free so the motion was changed to pay the Invoice less the amount of tax.

We spoke about how could someone submit a housing complaint and the HOPE form was mentioned. It is titled "Intake Complaint" and so the format might need to be amended in order to make it useful for submitting complaints of all kinds. We agreed to discuss the form redesign further at our March meeting.

Kathy informed us Sheriff Keith Nygren has an opening for a Correctional Officer. She gave us copies of the information sheet about the written test and the minimum qualifications needed to apply. The test date is February 26, 2005.

Judy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Anna May seconded. Motion carried.

The next meeting is at 7:00 PM March 16, 2005 at the government center.

Transcribed notes respectfully submitted by Judy Kettmann. (Minutes also were sent as a Word attachment to Barbara Todd for the county web site.)