

City of Pekin Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2017; 7:30am; City of Pekin Council Chambers

I. Welcome and introductions – Present: Brian Byrne, Melinda Figge, Bill Fleming, Lynne Johnson, Becky Saban, and Linda Seth. Also present, Pamela Anderson.

II. Approval of minutes (October 2016) – The minutes of the October 26, 2016 meeting we approved on a motion by Byrne, and second by Johnson. The motion carried.

III. Correspondence and feedback – None

IV. Old Business

- A. Strategic planning (follow-up) – The committee reviewed some of the items on the strategic planning list.
 - a. Fleming/Figge believe we can schedule a forum on recruitment laws (EEO, hiring, interviewing) targeted towards small businesses. There are a group of Pekin HR professionals that get together monthly and they would be a great resource to speak. They will ask at the next HR meeting.
 - b. Byrne had suggested a video series that he had used in the past, but after reviewing he decided it wouldn't be appropriate for our use.
 - c. At our next meeting we should put together a banner placement schedule for the summer to ensure that it receives visibility.
- B. Bridges Out of Poverty / Workplace stability (update) – There is a one-day Bridges session scheduled for March 29th at Peoria's Southside Mission. Anderson is working on taking the constructs of the Bridges program and applying it to the business workplace. Fleming will check to see if she could use the above mentioned HR lunch group as a test audience on the program to see if there is a broader appeal in the business community.
- C. MLKJ luncheon (Pekin recap) – About 60 people attended the story teller program held at Grace United Methodist Church. Kids received a free book and the church was so impressed with the program they are trying to bring her back for a whole weekend of church events next year.

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- D. MLKJ celebration (Peoria recap) – There was a huge crowd and the program was very good. The organizers, recognizing the City of Pekin has been purchasing two tables (\$1,000) for the event for the past 8 years, has asked the City to be a sponsor. Anderson is investigating the cost of sponsorship.
- E. Poverty Simulation – Len Ealey would like to host a poverty simulation at District 108. Figge believes there is a staff committee at PCHS that is working on a related issue that would be interested in attending. Seth is working on finding a presenter for the program.

V. New Business

- A. WEEK / Tyler Lopez – The Hidden Truth of Sundown Towns – The committee reviewed the WEEK story that heavily featured Pekin's reputation as a sundown town. Overall, the committee believed it was a positive message...that progress has been made...but there is still work to do.
- B. City of Peoria – The City has held two community conversations on race. These are the result of the story ranking Peoria as one of the worst for African Americans. Anderson facilitated a conversation at one table during the first conversation. She said it was a good discussion and they had good crowds at both of the events. They have posted summaries of the conversations on the City of Peoria website and have started some work groups to address some of the issues that were raised.

VI. Other business to come before the committee

- A. Committee members
- B. Committee advisory members
- C. City staff

VIII. Adjournment – next meeting date March 22, 2017

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