



St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission
October 3, 2007
Minutes

Attendance: Sanjay Apte, Rose Ann Everett, Joyce Dyson, Jim Hanley, Joseph Bush

Staff Liaison: Cynthia Brown

Vice Chair Joseph Bush convened the meeting at 5:15 pm. The November minutes were approved as presented.

Finance Statement: Cynthia Brown reported a balance of \$2750 in the commission budget.

Study Circles: Three community based Study Circle groups completed the process then met several weeks later to determine what recommendations to move forward. There was reluctance from the Study Circle participants adopt a plan of action. Many felt there were already state and county officials and employees in place to promote and implement the recommendations. One of the most significant recommendations from the Study Circle participants was to make the Dr. James A. Forrest Technical Center available in the evenings for adult education. This was an idea which had been discussed previously within the Board of Education, however, having the idea re-introduced by the Study Circle participants was beneficial in moving it forward. At a subsequent meeting, representatives from the Board of Education, the Sheriff's Office and the St. Mary's Housing Authority gave a status report on how their agencies are to addressing diversity. It was decided by the Study Circle Planning Committee that next steps would be to conduct "organization specific" Study Circles rather than community-based. This would call for conducting Study Circles discussions within individual organizations to address specific issues and concerns pertaining their organizations. Spring Ridge Middle School, the Sheriff's Office and St. Mary's College are potential sites for upcoming Study Circles. The initial Study Circle groups provided a learning experience for the planning committee. The group consensus is the administration and process of Study Circles needs to be more uniform.

Mac McClintock joined the meeting at 5:25.

Christmas Caring: The HRC members present agreed to adopt a family for the holidays. Cynthia Brown will provide more information about the family's needs at the November meeting.

Annual Awards Breakfast: Potential speakers and themes were discussed. Most members liked the theme "Everyday Heroes". Joseph Bush will contact the Harry Lundeburg Seamanship School to confirm a date in April. Cynthia Brown will later contact the Sheriff's Office to make sure that date does not interfere with any activities the Sheriff's Office may be having at that location. Cynthia will also contact the public schools again for musicians.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast: . Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast at St. Mary's College-- Cynthia reported she had spoken with Marc Apter (Public Relations, St. Mary's College) who confirmed the date is January 21. The program begins at 9:00 am with breakfast being served at 7:30. Mr. Apter is requesting HRC members get there early to assist with preparing a list of dignitaries to be acknowledged.

Membership: Bernadette Lewis resigned. Sanjay Apte, who is in the military, will be leaving the area at the end of the calendar year. Cynthia Brown will contact the Public Information Office to determine if there are pending applications on file.

HRC Retreat: Mac McClintock suggested members consider a date to meet to devise a strategic plan for the next three years.

The next meeting will be November 7, 2007.

Adjournment – 6 p.m. Minutes submitted by Cynthia Brown