

Civil Rights Forum Meeting Notes May 8, 2023

Progressive Action for the Common Good

Present: Alta Price, Allison Ambrose, Susan Leuthauser, Margie Mejia-Caraballo, Emily Cummings (new)

We introduced ourselves and welcomed Emily!

February and April minutes were presented and approved

Action Item Updates:

ACTION ITEMS from 4/10 Civil Rights Forum Meeting:

Allison: Organize a visit to Grassley's office: **DONE (see info below)**

Anyone:

- Call people interested in our forum and personally invite them to join.—not done.

Coalition Partners Update:

- **MLK Interpretive Center:** No one present to report.
- **NAACP:** No one present to report
- **LULAC:** No one present to report
- **QCAIR:** Susan informed us that the coalition of immigration/refugee groups is in the process of being formed. Groups have been contacted and an initial meeting to discuss structure is being planned. Allison will be our representative with Alta as a backup. **Allison will reach out to Isaac to make sure we are included.**

Note: (we work in coalition with the above groups and that we like to hear reports during our meetings so that we can be informed about what these groups are doing to potentially identify ways that we can support their efforts)

Gender Equity Forum Update: Alta informed us that the forum will continue with monthly "Hands Off" happy hours. There is also some interest in providing education on trans issues as there is quite a bit of confusion on both sides. Perhaps there are other groups we could collaborate with to provide such education. Group and other potential initiatives were brought up: CLOCK, QC Affirming Diversity, Project Now's recent book club topic, Trans 101 (Rich H and Jael Simpson), The Project classes.

BLM Responses and Actions:

The "I Am the Future" video, which has been reworked, will be shown at the Putnam and we hope to tie this into some kind of fundraising initiative for PACG. There is a committee being formed to plan this. Someone from Civil Rights should be on this committee. Allison and Emily volunteered. **Allison will let Maggie at the office know that we are volunteering and will get Emily into the loop.**

The equity now rally continues to be held every Saturday at from noon to 12:30 pm at John Deere Rd and 16th St. in Moline. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Immigration

Allison reported that we had a very successful visit at Grassley's office regarding the Afghan Adjustment Act. There were about 7 PACG members and 3 local Afghanis at the meeting. The Grassley staffer also brought in the Miller-Meeks staffer to join our conversation. An After Action Post was submitted to the PAU and a blog post is on our website. We discussed organizing some kind of statewide initiative to lobby Grassley for his support. **Allison will investigate strategies (Erica Johnson was mentioned as a good place to start)**. Another thought was to visit Ernst's office and ask her to approach Grassley. WE also discussed that any other ideas regarding immigration advocacy that came out of the Immigration Summit could be handled by the QCAir coalition being formed. Also, we want to keep our eyes open for other legislation (ie: comprehensive immigration reform; year-end omnibus bill) for lobbying potential.

Quad City Sanctuary Coalition—Nothing to report.

Juvenile Justice Coalition: This group was discussed and we are not sure what their current issues are, but that we are there to support them. We think they are involved in the Gun Violence Initiative, but are not sure. Alta mentioned a potential initiative: Arrange for Scott County judges to meet with Polk County judges as there is clearly a racial discrepancy with prosecutions along racial lines that. Scott County is the worst county, Perhaps there is something to learn from other counties.

ACTION ITEMS from 5/8 Civil Rights Forum Meeting:

Allison:

- Reach out to Isaac at QCAir regarding immigration/refugee coalition
- Let Maggie at the office know that we are volunteering and will get Emily into the loop
- Investigate strategies for a statewide effort to lobby Grassley for support of the Afghan Adjustment Act (Erica Johnson was mentioned as a good place to start)

Anyone:

- Call people interested in our forum and personally invite them to join.

Next meeting Monday, July 10th at 5:00 via Zoom

Notes taken by Allison Ambrose / Edited by Jeannie Price