



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday, December 17, 2025
4:00 PM**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission is to promote a community of harmony and respect for the rights and dignity of all.

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, the Human Rights Commission will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 4:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

Commission Chair Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson
Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner Amy Blomquist
Commissioner Ronald Grossman
Council Representative Molly MacGregor
Commissioner Janet Miller
City Liaison, City Attorney, Chad Sterle

ABSENT

Commissioner Stephanie Meittunen
Commissioner Julee Jackson

PUBLIC INPUT (if anyone wishes to address the Commission):

None.

SETTING THE AGENDA: (This is an opportunity to approve the regular agenda as presented or add/delete an Agenda item by a majority vote of the Commission members present.)

Motion made by Commissioner Blomquist, Seconded by Council Representative MacGregor to add, Review Commissioner Terms under Business on the Agenda. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller

PRESENTATION:

None.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve the November 19th, 2025, Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Miller, Seconded by Commissioner Learmont to approve the November 19th, 2025, Minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller

FINANCIALS:

2. Review Financials for December 2025

The Commission reviewed the financials and discussed that there is no rollover of any funds.

BUSINESS:

3. 2026 Workplan

The Commission discussed the elimination of the Human Rights Commission Budget by the City. One of the Commissioners suggested that a column be added to the Workplan in order to estimate and plan future budget costs.

4. Ordinance Review

City Liaison, City Attorney Chad Sterle stated that the wording for the City Ordinance comes right from the Minnesota State Statutes. He mentions a couple changes such as changing quarterly to monthly and taking out the word general. He asked that the Commission bring any of their edits to the January Human Rights Commission meeting so it can be approved and he can then bring it to the City Council Meeting for their approval.

5. Library as a Resource

Commissioner Jackson is absent to discuss any findings on this item, but it was said that due to budget cuts, the Library has limited hours of service and is not in a position to staff it as a shelter. Commissioner Erickson will try to get a panel together to discuss the City policy on homelessness and how PD and other entities work together. Commissioner Grossman would also like to follow up on how other facilities such as churches were able to be used as a shelter.

5A. Review Commissioner Terms. Both Commissioners Erickson and Miller's terms are up for renewal on March 31, 2026. As of today, Commissioner Katelyn Dokken has resigned and that will leave the Commission with an opening. If anyone has someone that would like to become a commissioner, please send them a link for the application.

UPDATES:

6. City Council Update
7. Community Engagement/Education and/or Internal Collaboration

The Commission formed a new work group of Commissioners Miller, Erickson and City Council Representative MacGregor for this agenda item.

8. ADA Compliance WG: Commissioners Learmont & Erickson
City Staff/Volunteer Survey WG: Commissioners Erickson & Jackson
Interfaith WG: Commissioner Grossman

The ADA Compliance WG will continue.

The City Staff/Volunteer Survey WG: Regarding the City Staff/City Volunteer Survey, its goal was to capture a broader sense of the demographic profile of the possible diversity of the City's Staff and its volunteers. The City Administrator, Tom Pagel said no a few months ago to sending out the survey. For now, this will be taken off the agenda.

The Interfaith WG: Commissioner Grossman said that the Pastor's Prayer and Fellowship Interfaith meeting will be talking about what they're doing at their January meeting, the first Thursday of the month. All are welcome to attend.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

City Liaison, City Attorney Chad Sterle said that there were none. He also thanked the Human Rights Commission for 2025 and that there was a strong possibility that he would be rotated to another Commission in 2026.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

3. 2026 Workplan
4. Ordinance Review/Approval

UPDATES:

5. Housing
6. City Council Updates
7. Community Engagement/Education and/or Internal Collaboration
8. Community Foundation
9. ADA Compliance WG: Commissioners Learmont & Erickson
Interfaith WG: Commissioner Grossman
Community Engagement/Education WG: City Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioners Miller & Erickson

ADJOURN:

Commission Chair Erickson adjourned the meeting at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman