



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 23, 2022
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, February 23, 2022 at 4:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present:

Commission Chair Friesen

Commissioner Lopez-Cortes

Commissioner Erickson

Commissioner Connelly

Commissioner Joselyn

Commissioner Learmont

Absent: City Liaison Attorney Chad Sterle

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 to approve the Agenda as written by Commissioner Connelly and second by Commissioner Learmont. All in favor, motion passed.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. January 26th, 2022 Minutes

Motion to approve the January 26th, 2022 Minutes was made by Commissioner Connelly and second by Commissioner Lopez-Cortes. All in favor, motion passed.

FINANCIALS:

No new activity with the exception of the yearly budget of \$7,500.00 now included in the total. The Northern Lights School will be submitting a transportation reimbursement invoice for the Georgia Fort Exhibit soon.

BUSINESS:

2. Georgia Fort Update

The Exhibit is staying a little longer, thus creating opportunities for others to attend. Unfortunately, Independent School District 318, although appreciative of the opportunity, will not be able to send students to the Exhibit.

3. Training Opportunities

Discussion on upcoming training, that the Commission needs to follow through on supporting the Police Department - identifying and supplying options for their trainings. Possibly a taskforce outside of the Commission's meetings to connect with the Police Force to get them and the public together to ask what they need more information on or areas that need our attention. Commission Chair Friesen will get in touch with Police Chief Schaar. The Commission could also have conversations with bigger industries in town, to bring the workforce here for training.

Also, there is an online training called Facilitators of Equity Coalition, which gives tools to address the work of the Commission. There was a request for the link to the training site and Commissioner Joselyn will supply that link.

4. Finalize 2022 Workplan and Calendar

Discuss and review of the Workplan. Determine which events the Commission wants to focus on and prioritize per quarter. The first quarter, the Onboarding materials are done. The Commission needs to identify the need and interest for any interfaith event and narrow it down to what kind of action can be taken. At this time it was recommended to pause this event and move it down in the workplan for the time being.

Planning for Indigenous People's Day has started at the Reif with Larry and native bands being booked. They need to get their brochure prepped for the fall, which would include this event. The Commission has allocated \$2,500 for the event in the 4th quarter. To advertise for this event, the Commission would use social media platforms and the City's website when finished.

For the Calendar of Events, specific "months" as in "Black History" month etc., could be advertised as well as monthly speakers on the City's website when it is live. The Commission could also partner with the Library as they do their "Books of the Month" and have speakers. They ask Will, the Library Director, about this and how to access pertinent Census Data when it becomes available.

Table the monthly speakers at this time, but possibly contact Haven House regarding speaking about their needs and programs they offer the Community. The contact would be through Keisler House.

Regarding the March meeting, since it is Women's History Month, Commissioner Lopez-Cortes stated that she could contact a former co-worker that works for a global rights for women organization and she could possibly ask for her to speak at the meeting if she is available.

UPDATES:

5. Recruitment Update

There are a few applicants that will be submitting their applications to the City Council. Doug Learmont will be re-applying and then be re-appointed in March.

6. Banner Update/Estimate Discussion

Commissioner Connelly gave her report and draft of the banner from Quick Signs. Until the company receives half of the purchase price, they will not produce any design. The price for one banner from the quote is \$660.00 plus \$36.00 shipping. In order to move forward the Commission needs to make a motion approving how many banners they want to purchase and pay Quick Signs half down. There are three banner sites in the city to choose from and several Commission members would like to purchase a banner for each site.

Motion made by Commissioner Erickson, second by Commissioner Joselyn to approve and pay Quick Signs for the purchase of three banners, not to exceed the price of \$2,100.00. All in favor, motion passed.

7. On-Boarding Update

Discussed earlier with the Workplan, no new information.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

Commissioner Connelly told Tamara Lowney that she would bring this up to the Commission that she would like to come and speak to the Commission regarding the Welcome Community Initiative. Commissioner Connelly will check on her availability for the April 27, 2022 Commission meeting.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

- 1) Approve Minutes
- 2) Financials
- 3) March Speaker

BUSINESS:

- 4) Welcome New Members
- 5) Officers
- 6) Training Opportunities
- 7) Review 2022 Workplan and Calendar

UPDATES:

- 8) Banner Update

ADJOURN:

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman