



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday, April 30, 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, April 30th, 2025, at 4:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Erickson at 4:03pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson
Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner Amy Blomquist
Commissioner Julee Jackson
Commissioner Stephanie Meittunen
Council Representative Molly MacGregor
City Liaison, City Attorney, Chad Sterle

ABSENT

Commissioner Ronald Grossman
Commissioner Katelyn Dokken

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 Learmont, Seconded by Commissioner Meittunen to approve adding GRPD Discussion and "We Live On" Event to the Agenda. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor

PRESENTATION:

None

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve March 26, 2025, Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Jackson, Seconded by Commissioner Meittunen to approve the March 26th, 2025, Minutes with the corrected typo. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor

FINANCIALS:

2. Approve No Change Since February 28, 2025

The Commission asked what the balance was as there was no attached Financial, and as of the February 28th, 2025, meeting, the balance was \$7,457. The Commission would like to have a monthly Financial attached going forward.

BUSINESS:

3. Welcome/Introductions for Any New Commissioners

No new Commissioners at this time, and they stated that there is still an opening on the Commission.

4. Approve the 2025 Workplan

Motion made by Commissioner Learmont, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to approve the 2025 Workplan. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor

5. Blandin Foundation Grant Discussion for 2026

The Commission discussed the Blandin Grant handout regarding the Rural Placemaking Grants (for 2026). There are three categories of rural placemaking, 1) Capacity Building-Building Placemaking Skills and Resources, 2) Planning-Planning for Placemaking Initiatives and 3) Implementation-Executing a Placemaking Initiative or Project. One of the Commissioners mentioned that they would enjoy a discussion with them at one of their upcoming meetings.

6. League of Minnesota Cities
 - Braver Angels Workshop May 14th
 - Annual Conference June 25-27th

Commissioners Meittunen and Jackson would like to attend the Braver Angels Workshop which will be held on May 14th, 2025. Commissioner MacGregor will find out more on the registration for the workshop as there is a fee for attending.

Commissioner MacGregor will be attending the League of Minnesota's Annual Conference June 25-27th, 2025. She will have a short presentation on the city of Grand Rapids' Human Rights Commission and is asking for any additions to include or comments/updates from the Commissioners to be given to her by the May 28th, 2025, meeting.

7. Mobility Mania - Accessibility for All Event

The Commission discussed the Mobility Mania - Accessibility for All and the Judy Garland and Children's Discovery Museum event on June 19th through the 23rd, 2025. One of the Human Rights focused protected classes is Disabilities and the event highlights both disabilities and accessibility, which would be a good fit for the Human Rights Commission to sponsor this event.

Motion made by Council Representative MacGregor, Seconded by Commissioner Meittunen to sponsor the Mobility Mania-Accessibility for All and the Judy Garland and Children's Discovery Museum event on June 19th-23rd, 2025 at the "Bronze" sponsorship level of \$500.00. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor

7A. Grand Rapids Police Department - Chief Morgan Meeting. Commissioner Erickson recently met with Chief Morgan regarding the 2024 reporting. He would like to come to the May Human Rights Commission meeting. The Commission could have questions that they would like him to address or have him show how the tracking system works. Having Chief Morgan return would help the Commission understand in what ways they could support the City with Human Rights Activities and training.

7B. We Live On flier - handed out to the Commission which shows an upcoming live event on May 10th, 2025, and an exhibit scheduled for May 10-26, 2025, at Old Central School which features "We Live On: Stories of Radical Connection".

UPDATES:

8. Current Events

One current event passed on from Commissioner MacGregor to the Human Rights Commission is the Alliance Church's potluck and conversation meeting at the Cohouse from 5-7 on May 8th, 2025.

9. Community Education/Engagement Opportunity

Commissioner Erickson and Commissioner Jackson are going to be on the agenda at the Arts & Culture Commission's meeting on May 6th, to request co-support for upcoming activities.

10. Work Groups

Commissioner Erickson stated that Kootasca will be having another Freedom Walk for Juneteenth, and they will be asking for sponsorship. There will also be a FEMA event around the area as well. She also talked to City Administrator, Tom Pagel and he was okay with the Human Rights Commission assisting with the Pride Event's pancake breakfast. The Commission also discussed the sponsorship of the Pride Event as well.

Motion made by Commissioner Blomquist, Seconded by Council Representative MacGregor to approve the recommendation of a \$1,000 sponsorship to the Itasca Pride Event on June 22nd, 2025. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner

**Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen,
Council Representative MacGregor**

The Commission reviewed the flier for the Community Needs Assessment that Commissioner Stephanie Meittunen prepared. They stated it was a very nice presentation of the three community needs assessments from Northern Minnesota for 2023-24. Commissioner MacGregor asked if it could be simplified just a little and maybe on one page. There may be a couple of interested presenters or general conversations in the future with the Commission regarding the reports.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

PRESENTATION: Chief Andy Morgan

BUSINESS:

3. Workplan
4. League of MN Cities - Annual Conference June 25-27th
5. Mobility Mania - Accessibility for All Event

UPDATES:

6. League of MN Cities - Braver Angels Workshop
7. Current Events
8. Community Education/Engagement Opportunity
9. Work Groups

ADJOURN: