



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 26, 2022  
4:00 PM

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## **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.*

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, the Human Rights Commission will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 26th, 2022 at 4:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Commissioner Learmont  
Commissioner Lopez-Cortes  
Commissioner Erickson  
Commissioner Connelly  
Commissioner Joselyn

**ABSENT:** Commission Chair Friesen

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

No Public Input.

**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.)

Add Item #7: Terms & Renewals for New Commissioners

Add Item #8: Juneteenth Banner Update

Add Item #9: On-Boarding Update

**Motion to accept the Agenda Item Additions #7, #8 and #9 mad by Commissioner Joselyn and second by Commission Connelly. All in favor, motion passed.**

### **APPROVE MINUTES:**

1. **Approve November 24th, 2021 Minutes Motion to accept the minutes from November 24th, 2021, with the correction made to Commissioner Lopez-Cortes name by Commissioner Connelly, second by Commissioner Erickson. All in favor, motion passed.**

### **FINANCIALS:**

Financials were reviewed, no motion made.

2. **Monthly/End of Year balance \$3,968.00.**

### **BUSINESS:**

3. **Georgia Fort Exhibit Update:** The Georgia Fort Exhibit at the MacRostie Art Center. Commissioner Friesen sent an emailed update. There is a possibility that some schools would like to bring students to the exhibit. The Human Rights Commission discussed and made a decision to allocate transportation funding for Independent School District 318 and Northern Lights School - split \$800/\$400 respectfully.

**Motion made by Commissioner Joselyn to allocate transportation funding not to exceed \$1,200.00 to schools for an educational visit to the Georgia Fort Exhibit, \$800.00 for Independent School**

**District 318 and \$400.00 for Northern Lights School, reimbursement made by submitting an invoice to the Finance Department, second by Commissioner Lopez-Cortes. All in favor, motion passed.**

- 4. Update on VEMA: Community Voices: "People of Color Telling Their Stories"** Commissioner Lopez-Cortes discussed her perspective as a speaker, how she felt hearing other's stories which made her feel not so alone with her struggles. There were a couple hundred people in attendance at the event and even though it ran a little longer than expected, no one left.

Kootasca was the partner in this event and they are going to do a series of follow-ups on the presentations and there is also a grant. The Community Action Team, which is fully up and running and staffed, thru partnership with them, there will be an invitation to present this format as a model for other communities, sharing the experience thus advancing our mission as a Commission. There were a few people from the Grand Rapids Police Department also in attendance and there is a video out there of the event also.

- 5. Training Opportunities: Update on Rural Equity Summit:** Commissioner Joselyn mentioned that they meet every third Thursday of the month. Both Commissioners Lopez-Cortes and Erickson didn't have a link to the training and therefore didn't end up attending via the internet.
- 6. End of Year Financial Update:** At this time, the money for VEMA, \$2,544 does not show up yet within the \$3,968.00 end of year Financials.
- 7. Terms and Appointments:** Commissioner Lopez-Cortes can't renew her term even though she was asked. The February meeting of 2022 will be her last meeting as she is moving out of the area. Commissioner Learmont's term will be up shortly and he is not sure he will renew. So, this is a reminder to do active recruiting for Commission Members.
- 8. Juneteenth Banner Update:** At this time they are still looking for a vendor and the preliminary approval with MNDOT. The time frame would be to put the banner up the week of/prior to, the 19th of June. The banner is to read "Grand Rapids Commemorates Juneteenth, Affirming Freedom and Equality".  
  
Commissioner Connelly to check on the timeframe and Commissioner Erickson is to check on the logo. The Commission will look for the cost of two banners when a vendor is found.
- 9. On-Boarding Update:** Commissioner Erickson spoke with IT Director Eric Scott, city website is being overhauled and he didn't know when it would be completed, maybe February or March. He said that it would be best to keep the packet separate from the website right now and it can be sent out when a new commissioner begins their term.

**CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:**

None.

**SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

1. Approve Minutes January 26th, 2022
2. Financials
3. Georgie Fort Update
4. Training Opportunities
5. Finalize Workplan/Calendar for 2022
6. Recruitment Update
7. Banner Update
8. On-Boarding Update

**ADJOURN:**

Motion to adjourn at 4:52pm.