



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday, October 25, 2023
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, October 25, 2023, at 4:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 4:08pm by Vice Chair Erickson.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson
Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner Tasha Connelly
Commissioner Joan Gunderman
Commissioner Amy Blomquist
Commissioner Ronald Grossman

ABSENT

Commissioner Bernadine Joselyn
Commissioner Edward Krumpotich
Commissioner Amanda Lussier

City Staff Present: Human Resources Officer, Chery Pierzina

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 Blomquist to accept the agenda as presented with the exception of adding an Introduction/Welcome for new Commissioner Grossman. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Connelly, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Blomquist and Commissioner Grossman.

An Introduction and Welcome was given by the Commission to newly appointed Commissioner, Ron Grossman.

PRESENTATION:

1. Guest Speaker

Nick Hansen from Kootasca Community Action came to speak to the Commission regarding their Community Needs Assessment Report for both Itasca and Koochiching Counties. The report is quite extensive (67 pages) and uses not only a compilation of Census Data (Demographic), but also resident interviews. Their findings show challenges that residents are facing such as poverty, housing, mental health and education and can compare to previous demographics data to see trends. This report can be found on their website, Kootasca.org.

APPROVE MINUTES:

2. Approve Minutes for September 27, 2023

Motion made by Commissioner Connelly, Seconded by Commissioner Learmont to accept the Minutes from September 27, 2023. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Connelly, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Blomquist and Commissioner Grossman.

3. Approve Minutes for October 4, 2023 Worksession

Motion made by Commissioner Gunderman, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist. to accept the October 4, 2023 Worksession Minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Connelly, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Blomquist and Commissioner Grossman.

FINANCIALS:

4. Approve Financials for October 2023

Motion made by Commissioner Connelly, Seconded by Commissioner Gunderman to approve the October 2023 Financials. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Connelly, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Blomquist and Commissioner Grossman.

BUSINESS:

5. Workplan Review, Quarter 4

No discussion.

6. Review and Approve Quotes for Retractable Banner

Motion made by Commissioner Connelly, Seconded by Commissioner Gunderman to approve the purchase of 2 (two) retractable banners from Minuteman Press for a total of \$573.47. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Connelly, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Blomquist and Commissioner Grossman.

7. Discuss Funding Request for 2024 Kootasca Event - Commissioner Blomquist

Commissioner Blomquist brought her request for funding of the Twin Cities Gay Men's Choir, performing on January 6th and 7th, 2024. After discussion the Commission tabled the request until the next meeting.

UPDATES:

8. Work Groups

- A) Community Event Work Group; Joselyn, Lussier and Gunderman
- Indigenous People's Day Event in Review
- B) Data & Demographics; Erickson, Krumpotich and Learmont
- C) Programming & Presentations; Joselyn, Krumpotich and Erickson

A) Commissioner Gunderman gave a recap of the Indigenous People's Day Event. There were many things that went well such as the presentations, the meal and having the vendors, but there were some things that weren't foreseen and other things that happened that were out of the Group's control. This year's event will be a learning experience for planning next year's event.

B) Commissioner Blomquist will be added to the Data & Demographics Workgroup.

C) This work group will be meeting prior to the December Commission Meeting.

9. Review Worksession for 2024 Workplan

Commissioner Erickson would like feedback on the 2024 Workplan and she will have another copy to review with any changes or updates for the next meeting.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

- 5. Workplan Review - Quarter 4, 2023
- 6. Discuss and Approve Funding Request for Kootasca 2024 Event

UPDATES:

7. Work Groups

- A) Community Event Work Group; Joselyn, Lussier and Gunderman
- B) Data and Demographics; Erickson Krumpotich, Learmont and Blomquist
- C) Programming and Presentations; Joselyn, Krumpotich and Erickson

8. 2024 Workplan Review

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 5:56pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman, Administrative Assistant