



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 24, 2024
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 24, 2024, at 4:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson
Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner Ronald Grossman
Commissioner Rick Blake
Commissioner Katelyn Dokken
Commissioner Peggy Clayton
City Liaison, Human Resource Officer, Chery Pierzina

ABSENT

Commissioner Amanda Lussier
Commissioner Joan Gunderman
Commissioner Amy Blomquist

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

Elizabeth Brown of 2105 SE 27th Ave spoke regarding moving to this community after researching it, but when she moved here, was disappointed that it wasn't welcoming or engaging.

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 Grossman, Seconded by Commissioner Learmont to accept the agenda as written. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner

Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Clayton.

PRESENTATION: Speaker, Karter Starling

Speaker Karter Starling started his speech by saying that he's the Treasurer for Itasca Pride, a 501c4 non-profit. The Human Rights Commissioners thanked Karter for coming to speak to them regarding issues related to Pride and also for discussing the upcoming Pride Event on June 23rd. A proposal will be discussed at the next Human Rights Commission Meeting on May 29, 2024.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve Minutes for March 27, 2024

Motion made by Commissioner Blake, Seconded by Commissioner Grossman to approve the March 27th, 2024, minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Clayton.

FINANCIALS: No change.

BUSINESS:

2. Welcome/Introduction of New Commissioner

The Commissioners welcomed new Commissioner Peggy Clayton.

3. 2024 Work Plan

Quarter 2, Work Group Updates:

The Pride Work Group was waiting to connect until after tonight's presentation.

The Indigenous People's Day Work Group is in the initial planning stages. They will have more updates next month.

The Juneteenth Work Group said that Kootasca has a walk planned and Commissioner Blomquist will have materials at the next meeting.

4. Approve Onboarding Packet

Motion made by Commissioner Learmont, Seconded by Commissioner Dokken to approve the Onboarding Packet. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Clayton.

UPDATES:

5. Blanket Exercise/Approve Payment of Half of Overage

Motion made by Commissioner Grossman, Seconded by Commissioner Blake to pay half of the \$50.00 overage of the Blanket Exercise held on April 8, 2024 to James Michaud. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Clayton.

6. Nami Training

Nami, Kootasca and Itasca County Vet Services are partnering to hold an event at Central Square Mall for Veteran's Mental Health. For the next meeting, the Commission will change this to Mental Health Awareness.

7. School District Policies

The Commissioners are going to contact and check into the school policies before they designate a work group. Commissioner Dokken volunteered to check their website and pull out information to bring to the Commission.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

3. 2024 Work Plan
4. Itasca Pride Event
5. Itasca County Fair

UPDATES:

6. Mental Health Awareness
7. School District Policies
8. Work Group Updates

ADJOURN:

Motion made by Commissioner Grossman, Seconded by Commissioner Clayton to adjourn at 5:29pm. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Clayton.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman.