



# **CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, June 26, 2024  
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, June 26, 2024, at 4:00 pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Erickson at 4:00pm.

### **ROLL CALL:**

#### **PRESENT**

Commissioner Angella Erickson  
Commissioner Doug Learmont  
Commissioner Joan Gunderman  
Commissioner Amy Blomquist  
Commissioner Ronald Grossman  
Commissioner Rick Blake  
Commissioner Katelyn Dokken  
Commissioner Julee Jackson

#### **ABSENT**

Commissioner Amanda Lussier  
City Liaison, Human Resources Officer, Chery Pierzina

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

Commission Chair Erickson opened up the Public Input. The first speaker stated her name as Dana Butler of 504 NE 4th Ave, Grand Rapids, and is a member of the community and a mental health professional. She stated that she saw many people enjoying themselves and also attended the inter-faith service that was held.

The second speaker stated her name as Alice Moren of DeSchepper Dr, Grand Rapids. She stated that she was grateful, for the event and treated it like any other held in Grand Rapids and that people could express themselves in safety.

The third speaker stated her name as Janet Miller of 416 Hurricane St, a mental health practitioner and stated that it was great to see our community gather in support of each other. Thank you for having the event.

The fourth speaker stated her name as Sandy Schildt of 206 Bay Rd, Coleraine, said that she was proud of Grand Rapids for having the festival on the Central School grounds.

The last speaker, Liz Granholm of PO Box 6025, stated that it was a beautiful day and thanked the Commission for the support. After this speaker, Commission Chair Erickson closed the 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.)

**Motion made by Commissioner Grossman, Seconded by Commissioner Gunderman to approve the agenda with the addition of agenda item 1A, a Welcome to New Commissioner Julee Jackson. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Jackson**

**PRESENTATION:**

1. Virtual Meeting - Justin Page

The Commission had a virtual meeting with Justin Page, Assistant US Attorney for the State of Minnesota, who enforces Federal Civil Rights Laws. Some typical cases that he investigates are those that involve such things as; service animals, a wide range of ADA, FHA and HUD enforcements, to name just a few. Investigations are not easy and they take time to resolve. Part of his job is also outreach like this meeting to the Human Rights Commission.

1A. The Commission welcomed Julee Jackson to the Human Rights Commission and gave a brief introduction.

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

2. Approve May 29th Minutes

**Motion made by Commissioner Gunderman, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to accept the May 29, 2024 minutes with a name correction for Hautala for the 3rd speaker under Public Input. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Jackson**

**FINANCIALS:**

3. No Change to Financials

There were no changes to the financials.

**BUSINESS:**

4. 2024 Work Plan

Discussion from the Work Plan regarding Onboarding, it may be good to schedule something in the near future, since we have had a few new Commissioners. The instruction could be on anything from Protective Classes to Robert's Rules.

The Commission discussed participating in upcoming Community Events on the Work Plan. Such as having an "unmanned" table at the Itasca County Fair or participating in Tall Timber Days or have a banner up at Central School.

The Juneteenth Banners need to be replaced. Commissioner Blake mentioned "All Are Welcome" stickers. Commissioner Erickson will check on the banner replacement and Commissioners Blomquist and Jackson will check on the stickers.

5. Itasca County Fair

Discussion on the Itasca County fair with Lila Crowe, not real keen on having an unmanned Human Rights Commission booth.

6. GRPD Follow-Up on Data/Possible Training

This item will be tabled and moved to the next meeting.

UPDATES:

7. Juneteenth Freedom Walk

Commissioner Blomquist said that the Freedom Walk was great and it was a beautiful day. She asked for funding and Commissioner Erickson will check with Attorney Sterle as to whether the Commission can retroactively support the event.

8. Itasca Pride Event

Although some have voiced their opinions that they did not like the event, most opinions and feedback have been good.

9. Work Group Updates

Commissioner Erickson said that Indigenous People's Day is the biggest event the Human Rights Commission supports. They would like to have more connection and collaboration this year.

At the next meeting we will hear more from the Work Groups.

10. School District Policies

Commissioner Dokken will finish up looking at the policies for the next meeting.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

4. 2024 Work Plan
5. Indigenous People's Day
6. GRPD Data Follow-Up/Training

UPDATES:

7. Juneteenth Freedom Walk
8. Work Group Updates
9. School District Policies

ADJOURN:

Motion made by Commissioner Gunderman, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to adjourn the meeting at 5:44pm. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Jackson

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman