



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 09, 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 Monday, December 9, 2024 at 4:00pm in the City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Erickson at 4:02pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson
Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner Ronald Grossman
Commissioner Rick Blake
Commissioner Katelyn Dokken
Commissioner Julee Jackson
City Liaison, Human Resources Officer, Chery Pierzina

ABSENT

Commissioner Amy Blomquist

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

Visitor introduced herself as Stephanie, a Grand Rapids resident, came to observe the Human Rights Commission meeting.

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 Jackson, Seconded by Commissioner Dokken to approve the agenda as written. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Jackson

PRESENTATION:

None at this time.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. September 25, 2024

Motion made by Commissioner Learmont, Seconded by Commissioner Blake to approve the September 25, 2024, Minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Jackson

FINANCIALS:

2. There has been no change to the financials.

Motion made by Commissioner Blake, Seconded by Commissioner Dokken to approve the financials. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Jackson

BUSINESS:

3. Community Volunteer Policy

Discussion ensued regarding the draft of the Community Volunteer Policy. At an earlier meeting this summer, there were inquiries as to how someone can volunteer for Human Rights Commission sponsored events. City Attorney Chad Sterle suggested that the Commission draft a policy and Commissioner Jackson worked on a drafting a Volunteer Policy. Questions came up regarding background checks and their possible cost, age and hourly requirements, whether they are compensated and checking the city's volunteer policy. Commissioners Erickson and Jackson will continue to work on this policy.

4. New Banners - Statt Wraps

The Human Rights Commission would like to replace the faded Juneteenth banners. At the September 25th, 2024, meeting, Statt Wraps (Statt LLC) gave the Commission an estimate for two different types of banners that they can make. After reviewing the two different types, the Commissioners decided to commit to purchase the banners from their September 12, 2024, estimate #1453, Item #1 "Printed Banner 18oz Mesh, Double Sided Print 3'x30'" to replace the Juneteenth banners.

Motion made by Commissioner Blake, Seconded by Commissioner Grossman to commit to purchase and pay for new Juneteenth banners from the 2024 Operating Budget, for a total cost not to exceed \$2,558.00 from Statt Wraps (Statt LLC). Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Jackson

UPDATES:

5. Indigenous People's Day

Commission Chair Erickson stated that Kate from the MacRostie shared that there was great press coverage with many kids and teachers attending. The evening portion attendance was a bit smaller due to the cold weather, but the dancing was wonderful. She also stated that she was thankful for the sponsorships and volunteers. It was suggested during the discussion that the work group should gather feedback from the event.

6. Work Group Updates

There was some discussion on work groups but nothing to report as they are looking into the new year of 2025 planning.

7. School District Policy

This item was tabled until 2025.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

3. Community Volunteer Policy
4. New Juneteenth Banners
5. 2025 Workplan

UPDATES:

None set at this time.

ADJOURN:

Motion made by Commissioner Grossman, Seconded by Commissioner Jackson to adjourn at 4:45pm. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Jackson

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman