



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 28, 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, August 28, 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 Vice Chair Blomquist at 4:09pm.

### ROLL CALL:

#### PRESENT

Commissioner Doug Learmont  
Commissioner Amy Blomquist  
Commissioner Ronald Grossman  
Commissioner Rick Blake  
Commissioner Katelyn Dokken  
Commissioner Julee Jackson

#### ABSENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson  
Commissioner Joan Gunderman  
Commissioner Amanda Lussier - Resigned  
City Liaison, Human Resource 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 Dokken to amend the agenda to include two items: 10) the sponsorship request from the BOLD Theater and 11) the resignation of Amanda Lussier from the Commission. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken and Commissioner Jackson.**

PRESENTATION:

None.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve Minutes from June 26, 2024

**Motion made by Commissioner Blake, Seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the June 26, 2024, minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken and Commissioner Jackson.**

FINANCIALS:

2. Approve July 2024 Financials and there are no changes to the Financials for August 2024.

**Motion made by Commissioner Blake, Seconded by Commissioner Learmont to approve the July 2024 Financials. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken and Commissioner Jackson.**

BUSINESS:

3. 2024 Work Plan

Commissioners Learmont, Blomquist and Commission Chair Erickson met to work on the outline and background information for the Work Plan. Commission Chair Erickson will have a handout for a future meeting.

4. Indigenous People's Day

Commissioner Dokken stated that she and Commission Chair Erickson will be meeting regarding the Indigenous People's Day Event. They are going to speak with the MacRostie to sponsor what they're planning for the event.

5. GRPD Data Follow-Up/Training

The Commission would like to have Chief Morgan back to speak with them. This would help to see what kind of data once pulled from his reports could assist the Commission. It may also be good to check with the City Attorney for more ideas on this.

6. Community Volunteers

This agenda item was tabled until the Commission can check with the City Attorney on this.

UPDATES:

7. Juneteenth Freedom Walk

This item was tabled as it is waiting on the City Attorney to let the Commission know if the funds that were allocated for Juneteenth can be used for the Juneteenth Freedom Walk, retroactively.

8. Work Group Updates

There were no specific work group updates given except for the Work Plan update given earlier in the meeting.

9. School District Policies

It was said that ISD 318 has many various policies, but maybe they could ask for a representative from the school to come speak to the Commission regarding their policies.

10) BOLD Theater Request for Sponsorship:

The Commission discussed the BOLD Theater, who will be putting on a show in Grand Rapids at the end of the month. The performers are a part of a Protected Class and sponsoring them would increase awareness in the community. Commission Chair Erickson to check with City Attorney regarding the flier and also installing the Human Rights Commission's posters at their event.

**Motion made by Commissioner Grossman, Seconded by Commissioner Dokken to authorize sponsoring the BOLD Theater for \$1,000 for transportation costs for their performance on September 28th, 2024. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken and Commissioner Jackson.**

11) The Commission recognized Amanda Lussier's resignation from the Human Rights Commission.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

- 3) 2024 Work Plan
- 4) Indigenous People's Day
- 5) Community Volunteers

UPDATES:

- 6) Juneteenth Freedom Walk
- 7) Work Group Updates
- 8) BOLD Theater

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Blomquist at 5:16pm.