



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 27, 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, March 27, 2024 at 4:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 4pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson
Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner Amanda Lussier
Commissioner Amy Blomquist
Commissioner Ronald Grossman
Commissioner Rick Blake
Commissioner Katelyn Dokken

ABSENT

Commissioner Joan Gunderman
Commissioner Peggy Clayton
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 Blake, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to approve the agenda. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake and Commissioner Dokken.

PRESENTATION:

None.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve Minutes February 28, 2024

Motion made by Commissioner Learmont, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to approve the February 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake and Commissioner Dokken.

FINANCIALS: No change at this time.

No motion needed.

BUSINESS:

2. Welcome/Introduction of New Commissioners

The Commission welcomed new Commissioner Karelyn Dokken. New Commissioner Peggy Clayton was absent and the Commission will welcome her at the next meeting.

3. Election of Officers

Motion made by Commissioner Learmont, Seconded by Commissioner Grossman to nominate Angela Erickson as the new Commission Chair. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake and Commissioner Dokken. Voting Abstaining: Commissioner Erickson.

Motion made by Commissioner Grossman, Seconded by Commissioner Erickson to nominate Commissioner Amy Blomquist as Commission Vice Chair. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake and Commissioner Dokken. Voting Abstaining: Commissioner Blomquist.

4. Reorganization of Work Groups:
 - A. Community Event Work Group; Lussier and Gunderman
 - B. Data and Demographics; Erickson and Blomquist
 - C. Programming & Presentations; Erickson

The Commission decided to reorganize the current work groups into task forces for events.

The task force for Pride will be Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Grossman and Commissioner Blake.

The task force starting out for Indigenous People's Day will be Commissioner Dokken and Commissioner Erickson.

5. 2024 Work Plan

The discussion revolved around upcoming events. Commissioner Blomquist will do more research into having a representative from Itasca Pride to speak to the Commission regarding their group and event taking place on June 23, 2024.

The task force for Indigenous People's Day will reach out to Anishinaabe Education to assist with the Event. There are multiple indoor sites that the task force could check on to hold the event due to it being in October.

There are a couple other events to put on the Commission's radar, such as the walk by Kootasca for Juneteenth (Commissioner Blomquist will bring more information) and the Stomp Out Stigma event. The Commission could have a presence at both with a table and banners.

6. Poster Purchase/Banner Placement

One of the Human Rights Commission banners is up at City Hall, and the Library would like to put up a banner, but would actually like something smaller like an 11"x17" poster. The Commission discussed and decided to purchase some smaller posters to use.

Motion made by Commissioner Erickson, Seconded by Commissioner Lussier to purchase ten Human Rights Commission posters from Minuteman Press for an amount not to exceed \$40.00. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake and Commissioner Dokken.

The Commissioners also discussed a new banner for the highway and reaching out to the city to post Events to the Reader Board. Commissioner Erickson will reach out Forestry to see where they purchased their banner and to the City Engineer, Matt Wegwerth on details for a highway banner.

7. Approve Onboarding Packet

The Commission reviewed the Onboarding Packet for newly appointed Commissioners and would like to see a summary of the Work Plan on it. Once this is updated, they will review and approve.

UPDATES:

8. Nami Training

No discussion, add to next meeting's agenda.

9. Blanket Exercise Attendance

The Blanket Exercise will take place on April 8th, 2024 at 6pm at Yanmar Arena. There are approximately five Commissioners that are going to attend and it will be posted that there will be a possible quorum.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

There was a discussion regarding the inquiry made from former Commissioner Bernadine Joselyn regarding School District Policy that the Commission would like to follow up on.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

2. Welcome/Introductions of New Commissioners
3. 2024 Work Plan
4. Approve Onboarding Packet

UPDATES:

6. Blanket Exercise
7. Nami Training
8. School District Policies

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 5:29pm. The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be April 24th, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman.