



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 29, 2025
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, October 29th, 2025, at 4:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

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

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson
Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner Amy Blomquist
Commissioner Ronald Grossman
Commissioner Julee Jackson
Commissioner Stephanie Meittunen
Council Representative Molly MacGregor
Commissioner Janet Miller
City Liaison, City Attorney, Chad Sterle

ABSENT

Commissioner Katelyn Dokken

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 Meittunen to approve the agenda. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller

PRESENTATION:

1. Jaci David, Verweven Strategies, LLC

Jaci David of Verwevan Strategies discussed her proposal to the Human Rights Commission. There were three points from her proposal:

- Refreshing Guiding Documents
- Develop a Framework to look at issues brought up to the Commission
- Support Implementation of the Framework

The proposal had helpful ideas that are not set in stone and her Budget, which included a discounted rate and some hours as pro-bono.

Commissioner Blomquist arrived at 4:08pm

APPROVE MINUTES:

2. Approve September 24th, 2025, Minutes

Motion made by Council Representative MacGregor, Seconded by Commissioner Grossman to approve the September 24th, 2025, Minutes with a change under Business #4, from MacGregor to Erickson. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller

FINANCIALS:

3. Review October Financials - No Change

The Commission reviewed the Financials.

BUSINESS:

4. Review Bylaws & City Ordinances
5. Workplan

The Commission reviewed the 2025 Workplan. One of the items that was discussed was the lack of an event for Indigenous People's Day. The Commission will work on having something ready to go for next year.

6. Review 2026 Workplan Worksession

Commissioner Grossman would like to add the Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week to the Workplan for 2026. He also gave additional documentation of community resources that the Commission agreed they would ask to be posted on the City's website.

Renee Kern stopped in to tell the Commission about Father's Heart and Hands. Their Ministries include a Food Pantry, Clothing Closet (& Blankets) and Healing. She said that they anticipate that the assistance industry will see an enormous uptick for needs in November.

7. Discuss Green Voices/Story Stitch & Braver Angels Workshop

Councilmember MacGregor signed up for the training classes held by Green Voices/Story Stitch. There is opportunity to teach the classes to others possibly through the Itasca County Health and Human Resources and/or Community Education. She will find out more

information. Their subscription is \$99.00 per year.

Motion made by Commissioner Blomquist, Seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve and pay for a yearly subscription to Green Voices/Story Stitch for \$99.00. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller

8. Itasca Housing Resource Team IHRT/Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week

The National Hunger Awareness Week is November 16th through November 22nd, 2025, with an event scheduled on the Central School Grounds on November 19th, 2025. The Itasca Housing Resource Team (IHRT) sent a letter to the Human Rights Commission seeking support for both a standing and a hanging banner for National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Month. They are requesting to reimburse Grace House for up to \$300.00, as they will be purchasing the banners on behalf of IHRT.

**Motion made by Commissioner Blomquist, Seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve and reimburse Grace House for the purchase of a standing and hanging banner for up to \$300.00 for National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Month. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller
Voting Abstaining: Commissioner Jackson**

UPDATES:

9. Community Engagement/Education and/or Internal Collaboration

Commissioner Miller brought a request for sponsorship to the Commission for the Indigenous Day of Mourning, scheduled for November 20th, 2025, at the Central School Grounds. This one day will observe three different dates: the Trans Day of Remembrance-11/20, the Indigenous Day of Mourning-11/27 and the World AIDS Day-12/1. There are 4 Parts to the Event: Part 1- Indigenous Art Collaboration with Fire in the Village, \$500.00, Part 2-Candelight Vigil, \$150.00, Part 3-Community Dinner, \$350.00 and Part-4-Publicity, \$50.00.

**Motion made by Commissioner Blomquist, Seconded by Commissioner Grossman to approve and pay for the sponsorship of the Indigenous Day of Mourning on November 20th, 2025, \$1,000 excluding Part 4-Publicity. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor
Voting Abstaining: Commissioner Miller**

10. CNA WG: Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioners Meittunen & Blomquist
ADA Compliance WG: Commissioners Learmont & Erickson
Community Events WG: Commissioners Erickson, Jackson and Dokken
City Staff/Volunteer Survey WG: Commissioners Erickson and Jackson
Ordinance WG: Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioners Learmont & Erickson
Interfaith WG: Commissioner Grossman

Commission Chair Erickson said that she would send the Volunteer Survey out to the City Clerk, Kim Gibeau.

The Community Needs Assessment Report was included in the packet. It's all the same, but it was formatted a little differently.

Motion made by Council Representative MacGregor, Seconded by Commissioner Grossman to move the next meeting to November 19th, 2025, instead of the scheduled meeting on November 26th, 2025, the day before Thanksgiving. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

4. Review 2026 Workplan

UPDATES:

5. Community Resources Discussion
6. Itasca Housing Resource Team (IHRT)/Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week
7. Community Engagement/Education and/or Internal Collaboration
8. CNA WG: Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioners Meittunen & Blomquist
ADA Compliance WG: Commissioners Learmont & Erickson
Community Events WG: Commissioners Erickson, Jackson and Dokken
City Staff/Volunteer Survey WG: Commissioners Erickson and Jackson
Ordinance WG: Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioners Learmont & Erickson
Interfaith WG: Commissioner Grossman

ADJOURN:

Motion made by Commissioner Miller, Seconded by Council Representative MacGregor to adjourn at 6:05pm. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman