



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

**Wednesday, June 29, 2022  
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 29, 2022 at 4:00pm in the City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

### **ROLL CALL:**

#### **PRESENT:**

Commissioner Angella Erickson  
Chairperson Lea Friesen  
Commissioner Doug Learmont  
Commissioner Tasha Connelly  
Commissioner Bernadine Joselyn  
Commissioner Edward Krumpotich  
Commissioner Ashley Goodman  
Commissioner Joan Gunderman  
City Attorney, Chad Sterle

#### **ABSENT:**

Commissioner Amanda McCabe

**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 was made by Commissioner Erickson to add three items to the agenda, second by Commissioner Learmont. All in Favor, Motion Passed.**

**#8 Donation from Grand Rapids Players**

**#9 Moving Meeting Location to the Council Chambers**

**#10 New Commission Member Introduction**

### **PRESENTATION:**

#### **1. June Speaker**

An introduction was made by Commissioner Krumpotich for the June Speaker, Elias. This is the first of the "monthly speakers" which follows the format of the protected class of which this

month was Pride Month. Elias spoke about the tribulations and also positive aspects of operating a business within the Grand Rapids Community.

Commissioner Connelly volunteered to draft a message to the Chamber of Commerce/Visit Grand Rapids. Commissioner Friesen stated that it would be good to do a follow-up with Elias. A Workgroup of Commissioners Connelly, Erickson, Joselyn and Friesen formed to do a follow-up.

**Agenda Addition #10:** New Commissioner Introduction: New Commissioner, Joan Gunderman was welcomed and introduced herself to the Commission and each Commissioner gave a brief introduction as well.

#### APPROVE MINUTES:

##### 2. May 25, 2022 Minutes

**Motion was made by Commissioner Connelly and Second by Commissioner Erickson to approve the Minutes from May 25, 2022. All in favor, all but Commissioner Learmont, who voted no. Motion Passed.**

#### FINANCIALS:

##### 3. The Financial balance of \$4,882.00 was reviewed by the Commission.

#### BUSINESS:

##### 4. Discuss/Vote on Questions for the Calendar of National Observances

Discussion led by Commissioner Joselyn regarding the questions for the speakers for the Calendar of National Observances. The questions for each monthly speaker to respond to have already been approved. Moving forward, due to time constraints, presentations should be held to approximately a ten to fifteen minutes followed by a five to ten minute Q&A/discussion.

##### 5. Workplan Discussion:

Indigenous People's Day Discussion: Commissioner Friesen noted that she needs to chat with the School District more and that big changes are coming to the Ojibwe Studies.

CAT Team will be doing something with the Indigenous People's Day, possibly hosting a Community Event in a supportive roll. They are also interested in the "Safe Space" opportunity to engage and have a safe space in the city of Grand Rapids.

#### UPDATES:

##### 6. Juneteenth Debriefing

Commissioner Erickson started the discussion on the Juneteenth Event by saying that she updated the Workplan with this year's expenses. Commissioner Gunderman said that there were approximately 300 in attendance where they only expected 150 to attend and drew people from all demographics. The event went well.

##### 7. Pride Update

Discussion on the Pride Month and the advertisement in the cities. Elias was great to have for the monthly speaker here tonight at the Commission.

**Agenda Addition #8:** Discussion of the donation from Grand Rapids Players of \$750.00. The donation helps to repair the hurt caused from the cancellation of the event "Sister Act". The Commission will write a thank you letter regarding what the money will be used for, Commissioner Connelly volunteered to write it. The Commission would also like to have them come to the July meeting to have a dialogue with them.

**Agenda Addition #9:** Moving into the Council Chambers: Discussion regarding moving from the smaller Conference Room 2A to the Council Chambers. This discussion began with the paperless packets where the Commissioners are able to access their agendas and packets online. They can also access them on the City Council computers during their meetings. The Commissioners decided that they will stay in the smaller Conference Room 2A and will not be moving to the Council Chambers.

**CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:** None.

**SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

- July Speaker
- Approve Minutes
- Review Financials

**BUSINESS:**

- Indigenous People's Day Planning
- CAT Team
- IDI Training
- Upcoming Community Events

**UPDATES:**

- Workgroup Update - LBGTQ+

**ADJOURN**

- Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm
- Respectfully submitted by
- Cynthia Lyman