



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
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 February 25, 2026, 4:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Commission Chair Angela Erickson, Commissioner Doug Learmont, Commissioner Amy Blomquist, Commissioner Ronald Grossman, Council Representative Molly MacGregor, Commissioner Janet Miller, Commissioner Brittany Pope-Sears

ABSENT: Commissioner Stephanie Meittunen

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 Council Representative MacGregor, Seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the agenda as written. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Pope-Sears. Motion passed.

PRESENTATION:

1. Community Foundation - Mindy Nuhring

Mindy Nuhring from the Community Foundation discussed the Grand Rapids Area Human Rights Fund Draft (the "Fund") with the Human Rights Commission. Once the draft for the Fund has been approved by the City Council, the Community Foundation would be responsible for marketing, accounting and reporting, tax receipting and distribution.

The distributions from the Fund would need to be consistent with the Human Rights Commission's Mission statement and are at the discretion of the Community Foundation. The Human Rights Commission will review and suggest any changes to the Fund Draft and bring to both the City Administrator and the City Council for approval.

APPROVE MINUTES:

2. Approve January 28, 2026, Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Learmont, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to approve the January 28, 2026, Minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Pope-Sears. Motion passed.

BUSINESS:

3. 2026 Workplan

Looking at the 2026 Workplan, Commission Chair Erickson stating that she hadn't heard from the City Attorney, Chad Sterle, regarding the Ordinance review, whether it went to the City Council or not. She also requested that the HRC Presentation get sent out to the new Commissioners, which is part of why it was put together.

4. Community Foundation

Commission Chair Erickson requested that all commissioners bring any comments on the Community Foundation's HR Fund Draft to the next meeting. Commissioners Blomquist and Learmont will review the document thoroughly and make their recommendations. Council Representative MacGregor said that the City Council should look at this for their March 23rd meeting.

5. HRC Presentation

Commission Chair Erickson asked if there was any brainstorming as to where the HRC Presentation, can be shared. For example, Commissioner MacGregor said that the Chamber Luncheons are booked for 2026 but could book for 2027. There are also meetings to check like the Local Adventure Council, Rotary Club, Grand Itasca Board, the Police Community Advisory Board and there are others to check on.

UPDATES:

6. Housing

Commission Chair Erickson and Council Representative MacGregor went to the Itasca County HRA meeting. They discussed both tenant and landlord rights and the 1968 Fair Housing Act. The Commission should work on a Proclamation for next year.

7. City Council Updates

Commission Chair Erickson said that the City Clerk would be sending out re-appointment requests. Both she and Commissioner Miller were at the City Council worksession to present the 2026 Human Rights Commission Workplan, the HRC Presentation and gave them the 2025 Highlights and 2026 Priority Report.

8. Story Stitch

The Commissioners participated in Story Stitch, which is a game that was developed before the pandemic that assists communicating with others.

9. Stomp on Stigma

Commissioner Blomquist discussed that the 14th Annual Stomp on Stigma 5k is set for May 2nd, 2026. It was discussed that the Human Rights Commission banners being held in Human Resources Officer Chery Pierzina's office could be used for the event. Other Commissioners asked if they could post the flyer for the event.

10. Community Engagement/Education and/or Internal Collaboration WG: City Council Representative MacGregor. Commissioner Blomquist met with Kootasca and said that they were receptive to the Presentation. She will go again the first Thursday in March. Commissioner Miller will be added to this work group.

ADA Compliance WG: Commissioners Learmont & Erickson - this work group will not proceed.

Interfaith WG: Commissioner Grossman. Commissioner Grossman discussed challenges that he sees with discussing issues with different Interfaith groups. Other Commissioners thought he could use the Human Rights Commission Presentation at these meetings. As per the ordinance, it doesn't have to be presented by the Commission Chair.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

3. Introduction of New Commissioners
4. Election of Officers
5. 2026 Workplan
6. Grand Rapids Area Human Rights Fund Draft-Community Foundation
7. HRC Presentation

UPDATES:

8. Housing
9. City Council Updates
10. Stomp on Stigma
11. Community Engagement/Education and/or Internal Collaboration WG: Commissioner Miller and Council Representative MacGregor
- Interfaith WG: Commissioner Grossman

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48pm.
Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman