



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023  
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, April 26, 2023 at 4:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

Commission Chair Krumpotich called the meeting to order at 4:07pm.

### ROLL CALL:

#### PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson  
Commissioner Bernadine Joselyn  
Commissioner Doug Learmont  
Commissioner Tasha Connelly  
Commissioner Ashley Goodman  
Commissioner Edward Krumpotich  
Commissioner Amanda Lussier  
Commissioner Joan Gunderman

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, Second by Commissioner Erickson to approve the Agenda as presented. All in favor, Motion passed.**

### PRESENTATION:

1. Monthly Speaker – April None.

### APPROVE MINUTES:

2. Approve the March 29, 2023 Minutes  
**Motion to made by Commissioner Erickson, Second by Chair Krumpotich to approve the amended Minutes that include a change to Commissioner Gunderman's misspelled name. All in favor, Motion passed.**

### FINANCIALS:

3. Review April Financials: There were no changes to the Financials.  
The Commission reviewed that there was no change to the financials since March.

### BUSINESS:

4. Workplan Review  
A) Current

- B) Quarter 3
- C) Quarter 4

4A) Workplan Discussion regarding Current-upcoming events. At this time, there is no event scheduled for Juneteenth in Grand Rapids, only Chisholm, but Commissioner Gunderman is not sure yet. The Juneteenth Proclamation should go to the City Council on June 12th. It should given to the City Clerk by June 6th to get on the Agenda. Commission Chair Krumpotich requested to know whether there were any plans or ideas for Pride locally.

**Motion made by Chair Krumpotich, Second by Commissioner Joselyn to authorize the Community Events Work Group to proceed and implement the plan for public educational activities for Juneteenth 2023 and appropriate up to \$2,000.00 as a budgeted expenditure. All in favor, motion passed.**

4B) Workplan Discussion regarding Quarter 3. Commissioners Learmont and Erickson to provide a list of training ideas and this will be on the Agenda next meeting. Also to review the Training Outline Proposal document that Commissioners Joselyn and Learmont prepared last year. This will be an Agenda item next meeting.

Discussion on Education Opportunities focused around how to make information appropriate for Kindergarten through 12th Grades. The work group should have an additional focus as well as their presentation for Human Rights Awareness Day.

There is no protected class for July and it was suggested that the Commission blend ethnicity and national origin for July's meeting. The Programming work group can address this.

4C) Workplan Discussion for Quarter 4. The question was brought up about the Human Rights budget at the state level. Chair Krumpotich stated that the state session is not over at the time of this meeting. The work group will address the Indigenous People's Day co-sponsored activities. There are no changes to Quarter 3 or Quarter 4 at this time.

5. Work Groups:

- A) Community Event Work Group; Joselyn, Lussier, Goodman and Gunderman
- B) Data & Demographics; Erickson, Krumpotich and Learmont
- C) Programming & Presentations; Joselyn, Krumpotich and Erickson

5A) The Community Event Work Group discussed the upcoming Juneteenth. The Commission brainstormed about some smaller ways that they could celebrate Juneteenth in Grand Rapids. Some of the suggestions were; to distribute fliers on the Artwalk, stickers at Brewed Awakenings, check with the Library to host a children's story hour for Juneteenth, have a display at the new Wildflower Bookstore, Hospital and/or the YMCA, stickers at the Farmer's Market and any upcoming activities in June. Another suggestion that was that the Commission should also look at the Community Calendar to see upcoming events in the area.

Commissioner Goodman would like to see Cinco de Mayo, the Mexican Independence Day, on the Calendar of Events for next year.

5B) The Work Group on Data and Demographics has been collecting information, have been working together and had a discussion, but have not met yet. The Work Group will report back to the Commission at the May meeting.

It's looking like an underhighlighted protected class is disabilities. Commissioner Joselyn stated that the GoMarti initiative has increased usage and awareness for disabilities. Commissioner Gunderman thought that for August, the Commission could have

Myrna Peterson as a speaker.

5C) The Programming & Presentation Work Group stated that when they do meet, they will discuss both training and education. Commissioner Learmont stated that its also a good idea to share information on what other groups are doing in the area, for instance, Kootasca has a mental health event on May 10th.

Commissioner Connelly stated that she recently had a dialogue with the Arts & Culture Commission, regarding the Legion Neighborhood Art and partnering with them for events such as Riverfest.

#### UPDATES:

6. Review Flavors of Our Community

Commissioner Lussier began the review by saying that the Flavors they had were Anishinabe, Asian and Indigenous. Some of the feedback was that folks were upset about the use of “Latinex” as they said it was too contemporary and it lumps all Latinos together. Chair Krumpotich asked how it was received and Commissioner Lussier said that they wanted to bring this issue to their attention. There are many different groups within the main groups and lumping is always difficult.

7. Blandin Foundation

Commissioner Goodman started the conversation stating that the Blandin Foundation restructured their funding process. There were questions regarding changes to their giving. Commissioner Erickson shared the Foundation’s updated Strategic Direction and Theory for Change and how these are forming their giving. The Foundation is still giving, but there are new and recurring grant recipients. She also shared that documents are available for viewing by anyone on their website and social media.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES: None.

#### SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

##### BUSINESS:

4. Review Grand Rapids Virtual Meeting Policy
5. ICTV
6. Training
7. Workplan Review

#### UPDATES:

8. Work Groups
9. Juneteenth
8. Pride Month

#### ADJOURN:

**Motion made by Chair Krumpotich, Second by Commissioner Goodman to adjourn at 5:35. All in favor, Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman