



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 25, 2021  
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, August 25, 2021 at 4:00 pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

### **ROLL CALL:**

#### **PRESENT**

Commissioner Angella Erickson  
Commissioner Bernadine Jocelyn  
Commissioner Glen Hodgson  
Commissioner Paola Lopez-Cortes  
Commissioner Doug Learmont  
Commissioner Tasha Connelly

#### **ABSENT**

Chairperson Lea Friesen

**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.)

Add the resignation of LeeAnn Stoll as Agenda Item #10.

Motion by Commissioner Learmont and second by Commissioner Connelly to accept the amended Agenda. All in favor, motion passed.

### **APPROVE MINUTES:**

Motion by Commissioner Joselyn and second by Commissioner Connelly to accept the July 28th, 2021, Minutes as amended. All in favor, motion passed.

1. July 28, 2021 Minutes

### **FINANCIALS:**

2. Financials: \$9,727.00, there is no change.

**PUBLIC INPUT** (if anyone wishes to address the Commission):

### **BUSINESS:**

3. Commissioner On-Boarding

Discussion regarding putting the On-Boarding packet together and that there are still two vacancies. There have been no volunteers yet.

4. Indigenous People's Day Community-Wide Workgroup

Discussion regarding Indigenous People's Day Event. There are no other scheduled events in the community besides Larry Yazzie Event at the Reif at this time. Commissioner Connelly will talk with co-workers at the school district and ask if there is a need for funding for transportation to the event. There is no motion at this time.

5. Juneteenth Event (2022 Banner)

Slogans from the hand out list for the Juneteenth banner were discussed. #9 was popular with a wording change "Commemorates" is better than celebrates and include the Human Rights Logo on the banner to read "Grand Rapids Commemorates Juneteenth! Affirming Freedom and Equality". Now the timeframe for the banner and the character limitation needs to be known, Commission to talk to Matt Wegwerth as it is 6 months out right now.

6. Combatting Anti-Asian Discrimination Discussion-Review Resolution Revision

Motion made by Commissioner Hodgson and second by Commissioner Connelly to recommend the Resolution to the City Council as amended. All in favor, motion passed.

7. Speaker Discussion

Discussion regarding speaker reimbursement. The Commission needs to set a reimbursement dollar amount when they invite a speaker. In turn, the speaker, depending on the type of presentation should provide an invoice to the Commission for reimbursement. City Attorney, Chad Sterle, let the Commission know that prior approval can be established as per case by case to reimburse for reasonable travel expenses of speakers.

8. State of Minnesota Department of Human Rights - Training Opportunities for Fall 2021  
League of MN Human Rights  
Minnesota Humanities Center  
Review Training Options Attachment 8-17-21

Discussion that the trainings would also be part of the on-boarding as well as building a strong foundation for the Commission.

City Attorney, Chad Sterle, brought up the training that Law Enforcement and some city staff will be attending, December/January, being put on by the Epilepsy Foundation. It will be closed to the public.

9. Grand Iron Range CAV Initiative and ADA Map/Text

No discussion - tabled until a later date.

10. Leann Stoll Resignation

Discussion regarding the submission of Leann Stoll's resignation to the Human Rights Commission. It has been submitted to the City Council and no motion needs to be made by the Human Rights Commission.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

3. Commissioner On-Boarding

4. Indigenous People's Day

5. Juneteenth Update (2022 Banner)
6. Training Opportunities
7. Human Rights Commission Meeting Timeframe Acknowledgment
8. Meet & Greet - Introduction to New Police Chief Steve Schaar
9. Workplan & Budget Review for City Council Meeting Worksession 10-25-21
10. Report on Resolution presented to the City Council.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:43pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman