



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022
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, March 30, 2022 at 4:00pm in 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 Ashley Goodman
Commissioner Edward Krumpotich
City Attorney, Chad Sterle

ABSENT:

Commissioner Bernadine Joselyn

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.)

A motion was made by Commissioner Connelly to accept the Agenda with added Agenda Item #7A Juneteenth, second by Commissioner Learmont. All in favor, motion passed.

PRESENTATION:

1. March Speaker
There was no speaker for March.

APPROVE MINUTES:

2. February 23, 2022
Motion made by Commissioner Connelly and second by Commissioner Erickson to approve the minutes from February 23, 2022. All in favor, motion passed.

FINANCIALS:

3. Review Financials

Reviewed current Financials and a discussion ensued regarding a more detailed print out of the Financials for 2021. City Attorney Chad Sterle will request the printout from the Finance Department.

BUSINESS:

4. New Commission Members

New Commission Members, Ashely Goodman and Ed Krumpotich were welcomed to the Commission and each gave an introduction. Current Commission members in turn also gave a quick introduction of themselves for the new members.

5. Training Opportunities

None specifically discussed.

6. Commission Officers

Current Commission Chair Lea Friesen was nominated for another term and a motion was made by Commissioner Connelly and second by Commissioner Learmont to re-appoint her to the Commission Chair. All in favor, motion passed.

There was also a nomination to appoint Commissioner Angela Erickson as the Vice Chair by Commissioner Learmont, second by Commissioner Connelly. All in favor, motion passed.

7. 2022 Workplan Review

It was noted that the Commission's Workplan is a living and breathing document and on the back pages is a list of recognized protective classes by the State of Minnesota.

The Commission discussed how they could be more present on Social Media and a recent meeting with Will Richter, Library Director, suggested that the Library could be that platform. He is very interested to work with this Commission and open to using the Library's Social Media for education. It was also suggested by Will, that the Commission should contact the Wilder Foundation regarding demographic data.

Commissioner Goodman volunteered to assist Commissioner Learmont and Commissioner Erickson with the analysis of Census Data. Commission Chair Friesen said that she would put together a write up of the current committees for the next meeting.

Looking at the next few months, there are no observances in April or speakers identified. The Police Chief, Steve Schaar could visit and give an update. Commission Chair Friesen said she would discuss that with him when she meets with him.

A suggestion was made that there should be a list of other organizations/businesses in town that the Commission has not yet reached out to. Commission Members were asked to write down a list to bring to the next meeting.

Speakers may be reimbursed for their out of pocket expenses. It was suggested that there be a document to give to prospective speakers that would show them what the Commission would like to know about them. Haven House was suggested for a possible April speaker and it would be good to have something for May's Mental Health Awareness. Commissioner Goodman suggested a therapist named Dana Butler that she would be a good speaker for May as she deals with all different aspects of life.

Discussion regarding the goals of the Human Rights Commission. The Mission Statement is in the On-Boarding packet and can be found as part of the City Ordinance.

Commissioner Krumpotich stated that there are opportunities for potential grants from the state for rural communities. He will check his sources and start doing some research. Commissioner Friesen and Commissioner Krumpotich are going to go through the information box that left by previous Commissioner Barb Sanderson.

Discussion regarding the upcoming Juneteenth Event. Does the Commission want to sponsor the event in Chisholm again for the same amount? There was a big picnic that had no rally or protest or anything like that, just a party atmosphere. Commissioner Friesen suggested that the commission get more details on the event and vote on whether to sponsor it next month.

UPDATES:

8. Banner Update

Commissioner Connelly stated that the language was approved and the banners have been ordered. There is no estimated time of arrival yet.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

Commissioner Goodman stated that she was aware of an ongoing issue at Itasca Community College and wanted to know where do they refer them to? Commissioner Friesen let her know that all the Commission can do is refer them to go to the State of Minnesota Human Rights Department.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

- 1) Approve Minutes
- 2) Financials - request for last year's for review

BUSINESS:

- 3) April Speaker – if any, under “Presentations”
- 4) Lists for Potential Collaboration
- 5) Calendar of National Observances of Ethnic Heritage
- 6) Workplan Review
- 7) Discussion of Juneteenth Event Sponsorship

ADJOURN:

Before the Commission adjourned, City Attorney Chad Sterle briefed the members of the Commission on being part of the city government and the importance of the "Open Meeting Law".

Adjourn at 5:52pm

Respectfully submitted by

Cynthia Lyman