



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 27, 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, April 27, 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 Bernadine Joselyn  
Commissioner Edward Krumpotich  
City Attorney, Chad Sterle

**ABSENT:**

Commissioner Ashely Goodman

**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 Joselyn to accept the Agenda with added Agenda Item #8 Discussion on Pride Month Publication, second by Commissioner Connelly. All in favor, motion passed.**

**PRESENTATION:**

1. April Speaker: None

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

2. March 30, 2022

**Motion made by Commissioner Connelly and second by Commissioner Erickson to approve the minutes from March 30, 2022. All in favor, motion passed.**

**FINANCIALS:**

3. Review Financials: 2021 Recap & Present 4-27-22  
The Commission reviewed the Financials and said it was nice to have a break down from the following year.

## BUSINESS:

### 4. Review Potential Collaboration Lists

Discussion regarding Collaboration List. The list should include but not limited to; The Reif Performing Arts Center, the MacRostie Art Center, Independent School District 318, Kootasca Community Action, Itasca Community College, Blandin Foundation, YMCA, Scout Groups, Jaycees and the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

### 5. Calendar of National Observances of Ethnic Heritage

The Calendar for National Observances of Ethnic Heritage is not just for ethnic classes, so the name should be changed to Calendar of National Observances of Protective Classes. Last month the Commission discussed making a questionnaire that would focus on specific goals and objectives and what the Commission is looking for from a speaker. The Commission needs to have a plan relating to subject matter, referring to this calendar and then have a goal.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and Commissioner Goodman may have a speaker for the May meeting. They could speak to us as to what we should be aware of regarding this month's protective class. The Commission also discussed that the Commissioners review the National Observances of Protective Classes Monthly Calendar and come up with questions that could be presented to the speakers. Next discussion on this topic would then be to agree on a uniform questionnaire for speakers.

### 6. Workplan Review

Discussion regarding the Workplan starting with Census Data. There will be some information available in the next few weeks, but most won't be out until 2023. The data that is out there is not easily accessible.

Discussion regarding Quarter 2, Indigenous People's Day. Commission Chair Friesen is meeting with the Reif Center and will find out more information regarding joint sponsorship and transportation of the event. There is an event planned at Central School by the Anishinabe Education Center at District 318 also sponsored by Kootasca.

There was also talk about an IRRRB grant to increase social awareness. City Attorney Chad Sterle noted that to be part of the grant it would have to be brought to the City Council. The Commission should talk to City Administrator Tom Pagel and Human Resources Director Lynn DeGrio regarding possibly having the city be part of the grant and even the Police Department for training and partnering.

Commissioner Learmont stated that the Commission could check with the State for a speaker. All we need to do is contact them, two months in advance with a date and time and what they might help with or issue they might address.

### 7. Discussion of Juneteenth Event Sponsorship

Discussion regarding the Juneteenth Event. The event is planned from 10am-2pm at the Central School Grounds. Kootasca is planning on kites and the question came up as to whether the Commission is going to sponsor the event more. The Human Rights Commission purchased the Juneteenth Banners which was a significant amount already. There was no determination regarding more funding for this event. Administrative Assistant Cynthia Lyman will check on the arrival of the banners and payment thereof.

### 8. New Approved Agenda Item, Pride Month Publication Discussion.

The Discussion was led by Commissioner Krumpotich regarding putting in an ad in the St. Paul Pioneer Press and Lavender Press to attract tourism to Grand Rapids. This would show that we exist here and that they would be coming to a supportive place. After discussion, it was said that

there should be something in the paper every month pertaining to the Calendar. City Attorney Chad Sterle noted that if we want it to be from the "City" it has to go to the City Council for approval, but from the Human Rights Commission, the content of "Happy Pride" is perfectly fine.. Commissioner Krumpotich will do the ad for June's Pride month and bring to the next meeting, in May. There should be a clear procedure each month's message, for example, Speaker-Press Release-Social Media Posts. Commission members should look at the "Calendar" and sign up for a month to do.

**UPDATES:**

None.

**CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:**

None.

**SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

1. Approve Minutes
2. Financials

**BUSINESS:**

3. May Speaker – if any, under “Presentations”
4. Calendar of National Observances of Protective Classes
5. Workplan Review
6. Discussion of Possible Juneteenth Event Sponsorship
7. Update and Vote on June Pride Publication

**ADJOURN:**

Adjourn meeting at 5:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman