



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 27, 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, May 27th, 2026, at 4:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Miller at 4pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Commissioner Doug Learmont, Council Representative Molly MacGregor, Commissioner Janet Miller, Commissioner Stella Leone, Commissioner Renee Ducharme

ABSENT: Commissioner Ronald Grossman, Commissioner Brittany Pope-Sears

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

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, Seconded by Commissioner Leone to accept the agenda as written. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Leone, Commissioner Ducharme. Motion Passed.

PRESENTATION:

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve April 29th 2026, Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Learmont, Seconded by Council Representative MacGregor to approve the April 29th Minutes with one change to 2004 under the section with Barb Sanderson. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Leone, Commissioner Ducharme. Motion Passed.

FINANCIALS:

None.

BUSINESS:

2. 2026 Workplan

The Commission discussed where they are at on the 2026 Workplan.

3. Grand Rapids Area Human Rights Fund Draft-Community Foundation

The Commission discussed that they were going to talk to the City Administrator and the Community Foundation. City Council Representative MacGregor will set something up so that the Commission can get clarification on a few items such as how the funds would move to the Human Rights Commission and the designation of an advisor.

4. New July Events

- 4 Directions Festival
- ADA Pride Month - July
- Dissolve the Divide

Commissioner Leone discussed the 4 Directions Festival and that she was hoping for a grant. She mentioned many people and connections that she has while working at various festivals and that the Indigenous People's Day could be a 4 Directions Festival.

Commissioner Pope-Sears was not present to talk about the ADA Pride Month therefore this was tabled until the next meeting.

Commissioner Leone also talked about the Dissolve the Divide, and how in the community where she was in Arizona they, the Police and Fire Departments, City and Mayor had an open forum about working together. Commissioner Ducharme mentioned the BridgeBuilder group and that they are getting people together and are having conversations with empathy.

5. Walk for Life-September

The Walk for Life is September 10th. The Commission Chair Miller said that the Keisler House next month is having a walk to raise awareness of suicide. There will be volunteer opportunities at both to give out water like she did for Stomp on Stigma.

UPDATES:

6. City Council Updates

There were no City Council Updates for the Human Rights Commission.

7. Stomp on Stigma

The Stomp on Stigma went well. Commission Chair Miller and Commissioner Ducharme gave out water and found out that there was another race, for ProLife that was actually running at the same time. Water was given to all racers of both races.

8. Itasca Pride

Itasca Pride is June 14th and Commission Chair Miller said that the volunteers would be helping make the breakfast the night before or would be giving out food that Sunday. A notice will be posted in case of a quorum.

9. Workgroups:

- Community Engagement/Education and/or Internal Collaboration: Commission Chair Miller and Council Representative MacGregor
- Interfaith: Commissioner Grossman
- Indigenous People;s Day: Commissioners Leone, Ducharme, Pope-Sears and Grossman

Community Engagement/Education and/or Internal Collaboration Workgroup: Commission Chair Miller said that giving out the water at the Stomp on Stigma was one way to build connections within the Community.

Interfaith Workgroup: Commissioner Grossman was absent to give an update.

Indigenous People's Day Workgroup: Discussion on the event on October 12th, this year. Commissioner Leone has many contacts and 30 years of creating/working on Festivals. We, the Commission, need to have direction as to what we want to do. Stated earlier, this could be a 4 Directions Festival (N, S, E & W) to bring the people here and anyone who wants to be involved, she welcomes ideas and input. Also, they want to get the Youth more involved and possibly honor former Councilmember Barb Sanderson and others in the celebration.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

2. New Election - Vice Chair
3. 2026 Workplan

UPDATES:

4. Itasca Pride
5. Juneteenth
6. New Events
 - 4 Directions Festival
 - ADA Pride Month July
 - Dissolve the Divide
7. City & Council Updates
 - GR Area Human Rights Fund Draft-Community Foundation

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman