



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 31, 2024
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.

The Human Rights Commission meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Erickson at 4:04pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson
Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner Tasha Connelly
Commissioner Amanda Lussier
Commissioner Amy Blomquist
Commissioner Ronald Grossman

ABSENT

Commissioner Bernadine Joselyn
Commissioner Edward Krumpotich
Commissioner Joan Gunderman
City Liaison, Human Resource Officer Chery Pierzina

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 Blomquist, Seconded by Commissioner Learmont to add Agenda Item #6A MN Department of Human Rights Discussion to the Agenda. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Connelly, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Blomquist and Commissioner Grossman.

PRESENTATION:

None.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve December 27, 2023 Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Blomquist, Seconded by Commissioner Learmont to approve the December 27, 2023 Minutes with the roll call correction. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Connelly, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Blomquist and Commissioner Grossman.

FINANCIALS:

2. Approve January 2024 Financials - No Change

There was no change to the Financials and the Budget for 2024 has been updated to \$7,500.

BUSINESS:

3. Election of Officers

This item was tabled until next meeting as three Commissioners were absent.

4. Revisit Work Groups

Discussion on the Work Groups; their structure, direction and subjects, providing the best benefit to the city, collaborating with city staff regarding any issues and categorizing their responsibilities. A new column could also be added to the Work Plan for the Work Group events for partnering on projects for the future.

Upcoming Events for the Work Groups to begin working on; Juneteenth (flags up), Pride Event and Indigenous People's Day.

5. 2024 Workplan Review

Commissioners discussed items such as onboarding and training. New Commissioners receive as part of their Onboarding Packet, such items as the Open Meeting Law and the Bi-Laws. The Commission should check with the City Clerk to see what the New Commissioners receive after their appointment to make sure they receive the information that they need.

The Commission requested that the Recorder find and then email the Training Opportunities hand-out from last year to the Commissioners and include it in the next meeting.

6. Banner

The Commission questioned if they could put up the Banners in City Hall or possibly the Library.

6A. Minnesota Department of Human Rights

All Commissioners should register to receive emails from them in the event that something pertains to this Commission. Also important to see what they are currently working on.

UPDATES:

7. Work Groups
 - A) Community Event Work Group; Joselyn, Lussier and Gunderman
 - B) Data and Demographics; Erickson, Krumpotich and Blomquist
 - C) Programming and Presentations; Joselyn, Krumpotich and Erickson

At this time, there is no input from the Work Groups. It was suggested that the Vice Chair request that each work group bring something to the next meeting for discussion.

Commissioner Connelly stated that there are three Commissioners who's terms are done and the City Clerk will get in touch with them regarding reappointment.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

3. Introduction of New City Representative as Mayor Connelly will be leaving the Human Rights Commission while she is Mayor.
4. Election of Officers
5. Revisit Work Groups
6. 2024 Work Plan

UPDATES:

7. Onboarding & Training
8. Work Groups

ADJOURN:

Motion made by Commissioner Blomquist to adjourn, Seconded by Commissioner Lussier. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Connelly, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Blomquist and Commissioner Grossman.

Respectfully submitted by
Cynthia Lyman