



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 28, 2025
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 28, 2025, at 4:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson
Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner Amy Blomquist
Commissioner Julee Jackson
Commissioner Stephanie Meittunen
Council Representative Molly MacGregor
City Liaison, City Attorney, Chad Sterle
Grand Rapids Police Chief, Andy Morgan

ABSENT

Commissioner Ronald Grossman
Commissioner Katelyn Dokken

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 Jackson, Seconded by Commissioner Meittunen to approve the agenda as written. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor

PRESENTATION:

1. Grand Rapids Police Chief Andy Morgan

Grand Rapids Police Chief Andy Morgan introduced himself to the Commission and gave an overview of the 2024 calls that they are able to pull from their statistical data using the key

words "Mental Health". Chief Morgan also explained the extensive training that his officers take, how it changes as the world and the community's needs change.

APPROVE MINUTES:

2. Approve April 30, 2025, Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Meittunen, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to approve the minutes from April 30th, 2025. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor

FINANCIALS:

3. Approve Financials for May 2025. There is no change and the April 30, 2025, Financials are attached.

BUSINESS:

4. Workplan

The Commission discussed events coming up in the next quarters of the workplan. They started a work group with Commissioners Erickson and Jackson called the Community Survey Work Group.

5. League of MN Cities-Annual Conference June 25-27th, 2025

Commissioner MacGregor will be presenting at the upcoming League of MN Cities Annual Conference and showed the Commission her presentation. She will have an update in July.

6. Juneteenth

Motion made by Council Representative MacGregor, Seconded by Commissioner Learmont to approve \$500.00 to sponsor Kootasca's Juneteenth Freedom Walk & Picnic on June 19th, 2025. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor

UPDATES:

7. Work Groups

The Community Needs Assessment was updated by Commissioner Meittunen.

The Indigenous People's Day work group met and is hoping to hold the event inside this year. Commissioners Erickson and Jackson will be going to the June Arts & Culture Meeting to ask for collaboration since their May meeting had been cancelled.

8. League of MN Cities-Braver Angels Workshop

Commissioners Meittunen and Jackson attended the online Braver Angels Workshop and will give information to Commission.

9. Pride Event

Motion made by Commissioner Blomquist, Seconded by Council Representative MacGregor to spend up to \$250.00 for the Pride Pancake Breakfast on June 22nd, 2025. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor

10. Mobility Mania-Accessibility for All Event

Discussion regarding the Mobility Mania-Accessibility for All Event, Commission Chair Erickson composed a letter that she handed out to the Commission regarding requesting a Stronger Accessibility Standard in City Planning and Public Construction. In order to revise her letter to the City Council, the Commission formed another Work Group of Commissioners Learmont, Erickson and City Attorney Chad Sterle.

11. Community Education/Engagement

Commissioner MacGregor plans to share the Community Needs Assessment Flier with the Community.

12. Current Events

No Discussion.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

One call, and they were advised to call the State Human Rights Commission to file a formal complaint.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

3. Workplan

UPDATES:

4. Juneteenth
5. Work Groups
6. League MN Cities-Braver Angels Workshop
7. Pride Event
8. Mobility Mania-Accessibility for All Event
9. Community Education/Engagement
10. Current Events

ADJOURN:

Commission Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman.