



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday, November 19, 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, November 19th, 2025, 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 Erickson at 4pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson
Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner Amy Blomquist
Commissioner Ronald Grossman
Commissioner Julee Jackson
Council Representative Molly MacGregor
Commissioner Janet Miller

ABSENT

Commissioner Katelyn Dokken
Commissioner Stephanie Meittunen
City Liaison, City Attorney, Chad Sterle

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 Grossman, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to add Erik Kling to the Presentations and under Business, Library Idea. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Jackson, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller

PRESENTATION:

The Commission welcomed Erik Kling, Senior Pastor at the Grand Rapids Missionary Alliance Church.

Pastor Erik Kling introduced himself to the Commission as the Senior Pastor at Missionary Alliance Church. He said that he was asked to speak to the Commission regarding their Bridge Builders Conversations. Their "Purpose" as stated on their August 5th Flier is, "to foster community with people from different perspectives". Their events are advertised and are open to the public.

Pastor Erik said that they basically try to bring people with different backgrounds in the community together to have conversations with one another. The opportunity at their meetings is to promote listening and not debating where the attendees are to be mindful and respectful of others' opinions. Their next meeting will be January 22nd, 2026, at 5:30pm at the CoHaus.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve Minutes from Oct 22nd, Worksession

Motion made by Commissioner Blomquist, Seconded by Commissioner Grossman to approve the October 22nd, 2025, Worksession Minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Jackson, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller

2. Approve Minutes for October 29th, Regular Meeting

Motion made by Commissioner Learmont, Seconded by Commissioner Miller. to approve the Minutes for October 29th, 2025. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Jackson, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller

FINANCIALS:

3. Review November Financials

The Commission reviewed the Financials. No motion needed

BUSINESS:

4. Review 2026 Workplan

The Commission reviewed and discussed the 2026 Workplan and made a motion to approve it.

Motion made by Commissioner Blomquist, Seconded by Council Representative MacGregor to approve the 2026 Workplan for the Human Rights Commission. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Jackson, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller

4A. Added Agenda Item: Library Idea

Commissioner Grossman asked to add this agenda item as he had an idea to use the Library's Common Area as a warming shelter. Depending upon the City's rules and regulations and whether the building is up to code for this type of temporary shelter, the Commission would

like to bring this possibility to the Library Board and the City Council. Of the many questions that need to be answered, amongst them was; Does the City have rules, policies and procedures for those who are on the street/homeless. Council Representative MacGregor will reach out to the Housing Task Force. Commission Chair Erickson will reach out to Police Chief Morgan regarding calls about the homeless.

UPDATES:

5. Community Resources Discussion

The quick reference guide for Community Resources on the City's website has been updated. For housing resources, Kootasca and AEOA can be added, along with Itasca County Veteran's Services. Commissioner Erickson will also check with the City clerk regarding posting resources on Social Media.

6. Itasca Housing Resource Team (IHRT)/Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week

Commissioner Jackson said that the Human Rights Commission sponsored banners were up only for the day of the event and then had to be taken down right away. Because of this, they were taken to AEOA and put up there. The County Proclamation was read at the event.

7. Community Engagement/Education and/or Internal Collaboration

The Human Rights Commission sponsored Day of Mourning is all set for tomorrow at Central School at 6pm in the open area by the Itasca Pride Office.

8. CNA WG: Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioners Meittunen & Blomquist
ADA Compliance WG: Commissioners Learmont & Erickson
Community Events WG: Commissioners Erickson, Jackson and Dokken
City Staff/Volunteer Survey WG: Commissioners Erickson and Jackson
Ordinance WG: Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioners Learmont & Erickson
Interfaith WG: Commissioner Grossman

The CNA Workgroup can be taken off as the report has been finished.

The ADA Compliance Work Group is still working on this.

The Community Events Work Group: This item can be tabled until 2026 Events.

The City Staff/Volunteer Survey Work Group: The City Administrator, Tom Pagel, said no to this survey. Many of the Commissioners voiced that they would like to try different means as to presenting the survey.

The Ordinance Work Group: The Commission would like to give this some more time for review to see if there are any more revisions. They will move this to Business for the next meeting.

The Interfaith Work Group; The Commission would like to approach other faith groups so they could work together with them on issues like homelessness.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

Commissioner Erickson said that there was a complaint and she guided them to bring it to the State Human Rights Commission to file their complaint.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

4. 2026 Workplan
5. Ordinance Update
6. Library as a Resource

UPDATES:

7. City Council Update
8. Community Resources Discussion
9. Community Engagement/Education and/or Internal Collaboration
10. ADA Compliance WG: Commissioners Learmont & Erickson
City Staff/Volunteer Survey WG: Commissioners Erickson & Jackson
Interfaith WG: Commissioner Grossman

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52pm, respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman