



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021  
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, September 29th, 2021 at 4:00PM in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

### **ROLL CALL:**

#### **PRESENT**

Commissioner Angella Erickson  
Commissioner Bernadine Joselyn  
Chairperson Lea Friesen  
Commissioner Paola Lopez-Cortes  
Commissioner Doug Learmont  
Commissioner Tasha Connelly

Also present; City Attorney, Chad Sterle and Administrative Assistant, Cynthia Lyman

#### **ABSENT**

Commissioner Glen Hodgson

**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 by Commissioner Learmont and second by Commissioner Erickson to accept the agenda for this Commission Meeting.**

### **APPROVE MINUTES:**

The August 25th, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes need to be revised, stating that there needed to be content increase. They will be amended and presented for approval at the October 27th, 2021 Commission Meeting.

1. August 25th, 2021 Minutes

Minutes from the August 25th, 2021 were pulled for a revision to add more content. They will be available for approval at the October 27th, 2021 Commission Meeting.

### **FINANCIALS:**

There is no change from the past month of \$9,727.00.

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

City Attorney, Chad Sterle, stated that in the past we had John Lavalier approach the Board regarding an issue that happened with him and Law Enforcement a handful of years ago and what came out of the discussions with the Board and City Council was the importance that Law Enforcement have training, specifically for seizures and epilepsy. The City then contacted the Minnesota Epilepsy Foundation, the Duluth Office Chair, Lisa Peterson who does a lot of training. They have booked two sessions, October 26th & 28th for all officers, first responders and some city staff. Following the training, at the November 8th, 2021, City Council Meeting, Lisa Peterson will present some commemoration that the City's Law Enforcement has completed the Minnesota Epilepsy Foundation Training.

BUSINESS:

2. Commissioner On-Boarding

Discussion regarding the On-Boarding Packet that Commissioner Erickson put together for new Commissioners. A "Welcome Letter" could be added, the city calendar could be given out separately and the work plan information could also be separate. A couple of documents are not easily legible and City Attorney Chad Sterle has a cleaner copy to give to the Commission.

The terms of service should be added, a summary of references such as the State Human Rights document as a legal basis for the work that the Commission does along with one of the four drafts that was discussed in the August meeting. The Human Rights Commission should correspond with the City's By-Laws and everything should be copasetic and consistent across the board - especially with existing and prevailing documents.

The On-Boarding documents could also be virtual and/or links to them on the City's website and possible links to the reading list. The City's IT Director, Erik Scott needs to be included in this discussion on website links and making the packet a pdf.

The bottom of the flier handed out should also include contact information such as the Commission Chair's email.

3. Indigenous People's Day Community-Wide Workgroup

Draft Agenda and Preliminary Budget Requests

On Indigenous People's Day, the Human Rights Commission will sponsor two buses to transport students to the Larry Yazzie Performance at the Reif Center. The students of the Indian Education Class from the East Elementary School will be attending. At this time they are not sure about the West Elementary School.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jocelyn and Commissioner Lopex-Cortez seconded to approve the payment for transportation not to exceed \$500.00 to be spent on transporting youth from Independent School District 318 to attend the Larry Yazzie Event at the Reif Center on October 11th, 2021. All in favor, motion passed.**

There is also an event with performers/dancers being held at the Old Central School from 5-7pm for Indigenous People's Day that the Human Rights Commission would like to sponsor. Commissioner Connelly attached a draft agenda and a preliminary budget request of the event and the Commission is in supporting this event at a cost not to exceed \$3,700.00. There will also be a notice filed that there could be a quorum at this event.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jocelyn and seconded by Commission Chair Friesen to participate and sponsor the Indigenous People's Day Event on October 11th 2021, at the Old Central School Grounds, not to exceed \$3,700.00, bus transportation not included. All in favor, motion passed.**

4. Juneteenth Event (2022 Banner)

This Agenda Item was tabled until next month as the vendor needs to be established yet and more information is needed such as character size etc for the banner. Discussed from the August 25th Meeting, "Commemorate", choice #9 was the preferred wording. No motion at this time.

5. Training Opportunities

Review Training Attachment from 8-17-21

Review of upcoming Training Opportunities. Commissioner Learmont supplied a handout for an Equity Summit Zoom training on October 27, 2021 from 9am to 11:30am. Those who attend can report back at the next meeting. There is still money available for training, perhaps before the year is done. State meetings are in December, approximately \$80.00, if someone went, they could then report to the group.

6. Human Rights Commission Meeting Timeframe Acknowledgment

This agenda item is to acknowledge and have a mutual understanding of the 90-minute cap on future commission meetings. No motion is needed.

7. Meet & Greet: New City Police Chief Steve Schaar

This agenda item tabled until the next meeting in October, as the newly appointed City Police Chief, Steve Schaar will not be able to address the Commission at this time.

8. Workplan & Budget Review for City Council Meeting 10-25-21

The Human Rights Commission will present the Commission's workplan to the City Council at their Worksession on October 11th, 2021, at 4pm. The deadline to submit the workplan copies to the City Clerk is the Wednesday prior to the Council Meeting. Commissioner Erickson will be the presenter and Commission Chair Friesen will also attend.

9. Report on Resolution Brought to City Council Meeting 9-27-21

The Resolution passed at the City Council Meeting and there were no questions or comments.

**CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:**

There were no calls, complaints or inquiries.

**SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

3. Meet & Greet New City Police Chief Steve Schaar
4. Commissioner On-Boarding
5. Report on Events from Indigenous People's Day

6. Juneteenth Banner - Response from PW Director/City Engineer Matt Wegwerth
7. Review of Training from Equity Summit  
Discuss November/December Training Opportunities
8. Report on Workplan proposal from the Oct 11th, 2021 City Council Meeting
9. Discussion of Speaker Honorarium
10. Further discussion regarding monthly speakers

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 5:35pm

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman