



# **CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2023  
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, October 25, 2023, at 4:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

**ROLL CALL:**

**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.)

**PRESENTATION:**

1. Guest Speaker

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

- [2.](#) Approve Minutes for September 27, 2023
- [3.](#) Approve Minutes for October 4, 2023 Worksession

**FINANCIALS:**

- [4.](#) Approve Financials for October 2023

**BUSINESS:**

5. Workplan Review, Quarter 4
6. Review and Approve Quotes for Retractable Banner
7. Discuss Funding Request for 2024 Kootasca Event - Commissioner Blomquist

**UPDATES:**

8. Work Groups
  - A) Community Event Work Group; Joselyn, Lussier and Gunderman
    - Indigenous People's Day Event in Review

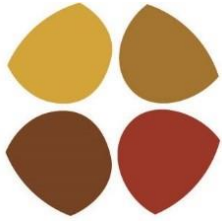
- B) Data & Demographics; Erickson, Krumpotich and Learmont
- C) Programming & Presentations; Joselyn, Krumpotich and Erickson

9. Review Worksession for 2024 Workplan

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN:



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023  
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 27, 2023 at 4:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

### ROLL CALL:

#### PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson  
Commissioner Doug Learmont  
Commissioner Edward Krumpotich  
Commissioner Amanda Lussier  
Commissioner Amy Blomquist

#### ABSENT

Commissioner Bernadine Joselyn  
Commissioner Tasha Connelly  
Commissioner Joan Gunderman

City Staff Present: Chery Pierzina, Human Rights Officer

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.)

The Agenda was approved as presented.

**Motion made by Commissioner Erickson, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to accept the agenda as presented. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Krumpotich, Commissioner Lussier and Commissioner Blomquist.**

### PRESENTATION:

1. Guest Speakers

Marion Barcus was the featured speaker with NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. This organization is a non-profit entity focused on providing education, support and advocacy for those with mental illness and their families. They are also trying to promote both the awareness of mental illness and help the public to understand that a mental illness is a medical illness.

#### APPROVE MINUTES:

2. Approve Minutes for August 30, 2023

**Motion made by Commissioner Erickson, Seconded by Commissioner Krumpotich to approve the minutes from August 30th, 2023. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Krumpotich, Commissioner Lussier and Commissioner Blomquist.**

#### FINANCIALS:

3. Approve Financials for September 2023

**Motion made by Commissioner Erickson, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to approve the September 2023 Financials. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Krumpotich, Commissioner Lussier and Commissioner Blomquist.**

#### BUSINESS:

4. Workplan Review
  - A) Quarter 3
  - B) Quarter 4

B) Discussion for Quarter 4. The Commission needs to organize if they are going to plan an event for the upcoming Human Rights Awareness Day. There are still posts on the website being done for the Protective Classes. Next month's speaker will be Nick Hansen from Kootasca.

5. Review and Approve Quotes for New Banner

The new retractable banner was discussed and even though there was a motion to move forward with the purchase, the Commission would like to review it again before approving. The motion was rescinded.

6. Discuss Funding Request for 2024 Kootasca Event - Commissioner Blomquist

This item was tabled until the next Commission meeting due to lack of quorum.

#### UPDATES:

## 7. Work Groups

- A) Community Event Work Group; Joselyn, Lussier and Gunderman  
- Indigenous People's Day Event
- B) Data & Demographics; Erickson, Krumpotich and Learmont
- C) Programming & Presentations; Joselyn, Krumpotich and Erickson

A) The workgroup involved with the Indigenous People's Day Event said that the set-up will begin approximately 10:30-11am on Monday, October 9th. The press release has gone out and the poster with the artwork has been posted around town.

B) Not discussed due to lack of quorum.

C) Not discussed due to lack of quorum.

Commissioner Lussier had to depart from the meeting, therefore there was no quorum and the meeting was forced to adjourn.

## 8. 2024 Workplan Planning Session

There is a special worksession meeting next week, October 4th, 2023, to discuss the 2024 Workplan. No other items discussed due to lack of quorum.

## CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

Not discussed due to lack of quorum.

## SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

## BUSINESS:

- 4) Workplan Review, Quarter 4
- 5) Review and Approve Quotes for Retractable Banner
- 6) Discuss Funding Request for 2024 Kootasca Event - Commissioner Blomquist

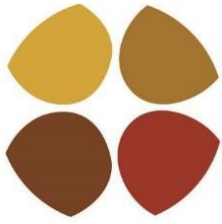
## UPDATES:

- 7) Work Groups
  - A) Community Event Work Group; Joselyn, Lussier and Gunderman  
- Indigenous People's Day Event in Review
  - B) Data & Demographics; Erickson, Krumpotich and Learmont
  - C) Programming & Presentations; Joselyn, Krumpotich and Erickson
- 8) Review Worksession for 2024 Workplan

## ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm due to lack of quorum.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WORKPLAN WORKSESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, October 04, 2023  
5:00 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 Workplan Worksession meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 5:00 PM at the Public Utilities Service Center at 500 SE 4th St, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

### ROLL CALL:

#### PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson  
Commissioner Bernadine Joselyn  
Commissioner Doug Learmont  
Commissioner Amanda Lussier  
Commissioner Joan Gunderman  
Commissioner Amy Blomquist

#### ABSENT

Commissioner Tasha Connelly  
Commissioner Edward Krumpotich

City Staff Present; City Liaison Chery Pierzina, Human Rights Officer & Recorder Mandy Mitchell

### BUSINESS:

#### 1. 2024 Workplan Planning Session

The Human Rights Commission 2024 Workplan Worksession entailed the following discussion, reflection and dialogue on:

- Highlights and Successes
- Challenges and Barriers
- Committees, Any Changes Moving Forward to Training/Programming/Work Groups – Add Commissioner Blomquist to Data & Demographics Committee
- Questions/Future Ideas and Opportunities Including Collaboration, Onboarding & Training
- Ideas for 2024 Quarter Workplan
- Overview to Include the 2023 Budget Allocations to Guide 2024 Budget

### ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.

Respectfully summarized by Cynthia Lyman using Recorder Mandy Mitchell's minutes.

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2023**

	Actual <u>10/31/2023</u>
<b>Human Rights Budgeted Expenditures</b>	\$ 7,500
Name Plates	361
Juneteenth Supplies	657
Indigenous People's Day	6,350
Postage Expense	-
	<u>-</u>
<b>Arts &amp; Culture Commission Indigenous People's Day Contribution</b>	2,000
<b>Balance Available</b>	<u><u>\$ 2,132</u></u>

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## **City of Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission Workplan Session – Notes**

Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 5—7pm at the PUC (500 SE 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Grand Rapids MN)

Attending: Angie, Joan, Amy, Amanda, Doug, Bernadine, Cherry

This information was collected through reflection and dialogue, and then used to guide the initial planning of the 2024 Human Rights Commission Work Plan.

### **Highlights & Successes**

- **Human Rights Awareness / Youth Engagement**
  - o Connecting with GR High School to do presentations
- **Events**
  - o Juneteenth
  - o Indigenous People's Day
- **Committee work**
  - o Contributed to teamwork, increased quality, and output
- **Outside Speakers**
  - o Want more of
- **Workplan**
  - o Helpful tool and timeline
- **Messaging**
  - o Social media posts
  - o Theming / reminder of protected classes giving shape and purpose
- **City Support – Cindy!**

### **Challenges/Barriers**

- **Not all seats full**
  - o Importance of showing up or letting folks know when cannot attend – *some key meetings missed due to lack of quorum*
  - o *Where is the Human Rights Commission listed online, as well as the application?*
- **Challenge of being volunteers**
  - o Busy work and personal schedules
  - o *ALSO a highlight – we've done a lot with limited time*
- **Keeping momentum**
  - o Need to better plan in advance for better execution
  - o Workgroup development took a bit to get going (but now is established)
  - o Reif Player contribution – *never followed up on, how to engage?*
  - o Getting ahead in lots of ways, while still feeling behind

### **Committees**

Overall, Commissioners feel the committee structure is working. Some edits/suggested changes for continuing with these groups:

- **Events Group**
  - o Change to subcommittee structure, identifying new folks on each upcoming event
- **Programming and Presentations**
  - o Continue with internal/external opportunities
  - o Responsible for professional development opportunities
- **Data and Demographics**



- Continue to review new/upcoming information
- Pay attention and bring forth current events / climate in the community or other important news that might be relevant to the work of the commission

### **Questions / Future Ideas and Opportunities**

#### **- Collaboration**

- Do more tabling / booths at events that intersect with the mission of the HRC
  - Ex. Pride event, Children's Fair, Community Connect, Stomp on Stigma
- Helping to facilitate panels / conversations on human rights topics / protected classes
- Continue thinking about how to invite others in (positive feedback re: Marian Barcus joining at September 2023 meeting)
  - Presentation framed on: What should we know? What do you need from us?
  - Doing homework before – making sure we are also asking questions of presenters
- How to increase connection and interaction with City (staff, departments, other commissions, etc.)?
  - City redevelopment project – *Saw this as a missed opportunity to better engage with the City and focus / center Human Rights on redesign and development of our community*

#### **- Onboarding and Training**

- Create training for new Commission members
- Kim as a guest speaker??
- Devote time to learning – important in this role

#### **- Other**

- What is our role – how to better use messaging?
- Human Rights vs. Civil Rights – where is the intersection, how do we tie or support these two causes