

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, June 26, 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.

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, the Human Rights Commission will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 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. Virtual Meeting - Justin Page

APPROVE MINUTES:

- [2.](#) Approve May 29th Minutes

FINANCIALS:

3. No Change to Financials

BUSINESS:

- [4.](#) 2024 Work Plan
5. Itasca County Fair
6. GRPD Follow-Up on Data/Possible Training

UPDATES:

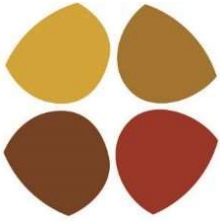
7. Juneteenth Freedom Walk
8. Itasca Pride Event
9. Work Group Updates

10. School District Policies

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN:



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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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 29, 2024, at 4:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

Commission Chair Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson
Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner Joan Gunderman
Commissioner Amy Blomquist
Commissioner Ronald Grossman
Commissioner Rick Blake
City Liaison, Human Resources Officer, Chery Pierzina

ABSENT

Commissioner Amanda Lussier
Commissioner Katelyn Dokken

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

Commission Chair Erickson opened up the Public Input. The first speaker to address the Commission, stated his name as Paul DeRoescher of Cohasset and did not wish to give his address. He stated his opposition to the upcoming Itasca Pride Event to be held on the Central School grounds on June 23rd, 2024.

The second speaker to address the Commission stated her name as Stephanie Lipsy, who also did not want to give her address. She would like the upcoming Itasca Pride Event to be held somewhere other than the Central School grounds on June 23rd, 2024.

A third speaker stated her name as Noreen Hautilla and she said she would like the Human Rights Commission to protect people that have a health crisis from the police.

Commission Chair Erickson thanked them for their input.

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 Blake, Seconded by Commissioner Grossman to accept the Agenda as written with the addition of #11 recognizing newly appointed Commissioner Peggy Clayton's resignation. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake.

PRESENTATION:

1. Police Chief, Andy Morgan

Grand Rapids Police Chief Andy Morgan introduced himself and his Administrative Assistant Jackie Heinrich. He gave a presentation of their data collection system for calls, to show how bias, when reported, is tracked.

APPROVE MINUTES:

2. Approve April 24, 2024, Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Learmont, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to approve the April 24, 2024, Minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake

FINANCIALS:

3. Approve May 2024 Financials

Motion made by Commissioner Gunderman, Seconded by Commissioner Grossman to approve the May 2024 Financials. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake

BUSINESS:

4. 2024 Work Plan

Discussion that Quarter 2 is done with Juneteenth and Itasca Pride coming in June. Quarter 3, July and August, there isn't a lot scheduled.

5. Itasca Pride Event

Discussion regarding providing portable restrooms through the City's Vendor for the Itasca Pride Event taking place June 23rd, 2024, on the Central School grounds that was suggested by

the City Council and staff.

Motion made by Commissioner Blake, Seconded by Commissioner Grossman to provide and pay for three regular, one handicapped portable restrooms and a hand washing station for the Itasca Pride Event on June 23rd, 2024 on the Central School grounds. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake

6. Itasca County Fair

Discussion regarding having a booth at the Itasca County Fair. The City has participated at the Fair, but has not done so for quite a while. It was said that City Administrator Tom Pagel said it was ok if the Human Rights Commission wanted to do this. The Commission will reach out to Lila Crowe.

UPDATES:

7. Work Group Updates

For Juneteenth, there is a Freedom Walk scheduled by Big View/Kootasca on June 14th, 2024, which starts and ends at Central School. Big View/Kootasca is asking that the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission partner with them for the Freedom Walk by granting permission to put their logo on the fliers for the event.

Motion made by Commissioner Grossman, Seconded by Commissioner Gunderman to partner with Big View/Kootasca for their Juneteenth Freedom Walk and allow the Human Rights Commission Logo on their fliers. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake. Voting abstaining; Commissioner Blomquist.

The Juneteenth Proclamation would need to be on the June 10th, 2024, City Council meeting agenda, Cindy Lyman will check with the City Clerk regarding the proclamation and the banners will be up by the 13th.

The Indigenous Peoples Day Event Work Group met and made connections with folks from Anishinaabe Education and other contacts to get moving on planning the event.

8. MN Human Rights Commission - Justin Page

After connecting with Justin Page from the Minnesota Human Rights Commission, he would like to speak with the Commission virtually. This will be on the June Agenda.

9. Mental Health Awareness

There is a Mental Health Awareness event tomorrow hosted by Kootasca called "Mental Health & the Workplace".

10. School District Policies

Commissioner Dokken will be updating the Commission next meeting.

11). The Commission acknowledged Commissioner Clayton's resignation.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

PRESENTATION: MN Human Rights Commission - Justin Page

BUSINESS:

- 4) 2024 Work Plan
- 5) Itasca County Fair
- 6) GRPD Data/Possible Training Follow-Up

UPDATES:

- 7) Juneteenth Freedom Walk
- 8) Itasca Pride Event
- 9) Work Group Updates
- 10) School District Policies

ADJOURN:

The Commission adjourned at 5:43pm.
Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman



Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission Calendar Year 2024 Work Plan

Prepared in accordance with Commission By-laws, Article 10

2024 QUARTER	GOAL OR ACTIVITY (refer to goal or activity description page for more detail)	ORDINANCE	ACTION TAKEN	EST. COST (See Notes)	ACTUAL
Q1 Jan – March <i>Possible events/ recognitions: International Women’s Day – Black History Month -</i>	Marketing & Awareness - Press Release - Banner purchase			\$600	
	Creation of New Commissioner Onboarding Process -Programming & Presentations workgroup to define and develop specific training materials or personnel for new and existing Commissioners -Reports at commission meetings to improve knowledge about commission duties, human rights issues, and human rights concerns			\$100	
	Training and Collaboration Provide at least one (1) of each following area to support growth, development, and collaboration: - Onboarding topic - Presentation + Q&A - Current event or “hot topic” item for presentation and discussion - Protected class topic or event - Connect with other commission / department within City			-	
	Collaboration Opportunities for 2024—2025			-	

	<p>Intentional discussion around areas for connecting and collaborating with other organizations, entities, businesses, Commissions, and Departments.</p> <p>Initial suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Women’s Day (March) - Mental Health / NAMI - Homelessness 				
	Development of Juneteenth & Pride Event Task Forces				
	Quarter Total				\$700
Q2 April – June	<p>Training and Collaboration</p> <p>Provide at least one (1) of each following area to support growth, development, and collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Onboarding topic - Presentation + Q&A - Current event or “hot topic” item for presentation and discussion - Protected class topic or event - Connect with other commission / department within City 	<p>City code Division 6 Commission Bylaws</p>			\$100
<i>Possible events/ recognitions:</i>					
<i>Stomp the Stigma – Mental Health Awareness Month – Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month – LGBTQ+ Pride Month</i>					
	<p>Development of Indigenous People’s Day Event Task Force</p> <p>Reminder work group should meet with prior to school summer break and begin conversation on support needed</p>				-
	<p>Support Juneteenth Day Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Recognize <i>Freedom Day</i>, including human rights, civil rights, and freedom of discrimination in our community by assisting in public awareness and celebration events -Banner request to city! 	<p>Sec. 2-303(3)</p>			\$2,000
	<p>Support Pride Day Event/s Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look for opportunities to be involved in and/or support community events, outreach, or publication 				\$1,000
	Quarter Total				\$3,100

Q3 July – Sept <i>Possible events/recognitions:</i> ADA / Disability Pride month – Hispanic Heritage Month	Training and Collaboration Provide at least one (1) of each following area to support growth, development, and collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Onboarding topic - Presentation + Q&A - Current event or “hot topic” item for presentation and discussion - Protected class topic or event - Connect with other commission / department within City 	City code Division 6 Commission Bylaws, including Article Ten		\$100	
	Collaboration Opportunities with City / Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Connect - Fair booth - Tall Timber Days - Neighborhood Block Party 				
	Marketing & Awareness - Press Release				
	2024 Work Plan Review – DUE JULY				
Quarter Total				\$100	
Q4 Oct – Dec <i>Possible events/recognitions:</i> (Nov) Native American Heritage Month – International Day of Persons with Disabilities – Human Rights Day	Training and Collaboration Provide at least one (1) of each following area to support growth, development, and collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Onboarding topic - Presentation + Q&A - Current event or “hot topic” item for presentation and discussion - Protected class topic or event - Connect with other commission / department within City 	City code Division 6 Commission Bylaws, including Article Ten		\$100	0
	Indigenous People’s Day Cosponsor activities or publications to further human rights purposes with regard to indigenous people in the city -Don’t forget banner request to City!	Sec. 2-303(1, 3) Article(10)(3, 5)		\$3,000	
	2025 Planning & Budgeting - Include presentation to city council				
	Human Rights Awareness Events - Human Rights Day (Dec 10)	Sec. 2-301		\$500	

	75th Anniversary -Community Conversations -Possible tie to school collaboration -Possible speakers and presentations - Possible Event	Sec. 2-303(5)			
	Quarter Total			\$3,600	
	2024 Commission Budget	\$7,500			
	Budgeted Expenditures			\$7,500	
	TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURES				

Notes:

- A. The time needed to organize and arrange the components for many activities will result in most listings involving more than one calendar quarter
- B. The estimated Cost column lists budgeted net cash costs to the City. It does not include contributions made to an activity by a collaborating partner nor an assumed value for donated time or resources by Human Rights commissioners, city administrative staff, or others.

Summary Description of Goals and Activities

Improve Human Rights Awareness

City of Grand Rapids Rules, Division 6 Section 2-301 states that the Commission will take positive measures to disseminate the nondiscriminatory policies of the city with respect to all unfair discriminatory practices by conducting public information meetings. During 2022, the Commission will appoint a work group to develop a plan and conduct one or more activities to improve human rights awareness in the city. Consideration of ways to promote human rights awareness may include improvements to the Human Rights Commission page on the city’s website, updating or developing and distributing new brochures, literature, or pamphlets that create awareness and promote better understanding of human rights with city staff and the broader community, sponsoring speakers or informational and educational events or contests, and promoting Human Rights Day on December 10, 2022. The Commission will also identify other areas in which there is need for making citizens, businesses, organizations, city staff, and institutions aware of human rights concerns and requirements.

New Commissioner On-boarding:

Human Rights commissioner terms are for three years. Commissioner terms may be renewed with city council appointment, and normal turnover typically results in one to three new commissioners being appointed each year. To effectively fulfill their roles, commissioners should be knowledgeable about federal and state human rights laws, city ordinances regarding the human rights commission, and human rights commission bylaws. Newly appointed commissioners should also be aware of past actions and activities of the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission as well as city council positions and needs related to human rights. The Commission intends to develop a plan and program that would inform newly appointed commissioners, as well as continuing commissioners, of their responsibilities, duties, city policies and relevant administrative procedures, and other aspects. This on-boarding process is to be discussed with a plan and materials developed during 2021 for implementation with newly-appointment commissioners.

Commissioner Training and Education

Actions or decisions by the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission to provide freedom from discrimination requires knowledge about the types of prohibited discrimination and ways in which these types of discrimination may occur in employment, housing, real property, public accommodations, public services, education, and unfounded charges (City of Grand Rapids Rules, Division 6 Sec 2-301). The Commission plans to identify and act to identify and support commissioner training opportunities and activities in calendar year 2022. This may include approaches such as outside speakers, presentation or event sponsorship, community meetings, interviews, identifying and sharing of pertinent new articles or reports, and/or in other ways. Commissioner training and education would be an ongoing objective and activity.

Support Juneteenth Day Event

The Commission intends to recognize *Freedom Day*, June 19th, which includes recognizing freedoms in our nation and community including human rights, civil rights, and freedom of discrimination and creating public awareness of these rights through assisting street-side setting of street banners recognizing these freedoms, posting of United States flags, and co-issuing news media information.

Gather and Evaluate Demographic Data

The Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission strives to identify human rights issues of greatest concern in the city, and to develop and implement activities to make improvements in the areas of greatest concern. Achieving this goal requires demographic data about the city population. To gather such data the Commission desires to identify data needs and data sources, analyze the data, and from the data analysis develop plans for Commission activities in the community or recommend city policies to address, mitigate or alleviate those human rights concerns or issues. The Commission intends to review 2020 census data to inform changes in priorities, activities, and recommendations in the city.

Review human rights educational opportunities with schools

Schools in Grand Rapids contain their own sets of human rights concerns and opportunities. The Commission intends to explore and begin discussions with the schools in Grand Rapids to look into such possibilities as improving student experiences and understanding of diverse cultures possibly through programs such as pen pal programs with students in other countries, sponsoring an education Summit focused on human rights, or conducting a Human Rights Day event with local school. When an appropriate event is identified, the Commission expects to support such event.

Indigenous People’s Day

The Commission was an important factor in establishment of Indigenous People’s Day in Grand Rapids and has continued as a key factor in conducting and sponsoring the annual event as part of creating cultural awareness in the local community. This role is planned to continue in 2022, including establishing a Human Rights Commission Indigenous People’s Day committee to collaborate with other community groups to plan, identify a theme, organize, and conduct an Indigenous People’s Day program and activities.

Human Rights Awareness Events - Human Rights Day (December 10)

To improve awareness of human rights in the city, the Commission plans to discuss and review ways to improve awareness of human rights in the city. Committee work is expected to include approaches such as conducting community conversations, identifying ways to tie human rights awareness with the local schools, arranging and sponsoring topical speakers, and/or other means of fostering human rights awareness preferably in collaboration with other groups or entities.

Notes:

During the year, adjustments may be made to reflect changes in costs, changes in priorities, changes in format or delivery methods, or identification of human rights concerns that were not identified in compiling the preceding list but which the Commission feels need to be addressed. Examples include:

- a. Possible adjustments could occur due to identifying new or incidental human rights concerns related to protected groups and areas from the [Minnesota Human Rights](#) and other state statutes and regulations:

Protected Classes	Protected Area
RACE	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, credit, and business
COLOR	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, credit, and business
CREED	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, and credit
RELIGION	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, and credit

NATIONAL ORIGIN	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, credit, and business
SEX	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, credit, and business
MARITAL STATUS	Employment, housing, public accommodations, education, and credit
DISABILITY	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, credit, and business
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	Employment, housing, public services, education, credit
AGE	Employment and education
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, credit, and business
FAMILIAL STATUS	Employment, Housing
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ACTIVITY	Employment

b. Adjustments could occur as a result of use of alternative education/training delivery methods such as print, seminars, webinars, speeches, and others