



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

**Wednesday, April 26, 2023
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, April 26, 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.](#) Monthly Speaker - April

APPROVE MINUTES:

- [2.](#) Approve the March 29, 2023 Minutes

FINANCIALS:

- [3.](#) Review April Financials: There were no changes to the Financials.

BUSINESS:

- [4.](#) Workplan Review

A) Current

B) Quarter 3

C) Quarter 4

5. Work Groups:

A) Community Event Work Group; Joselyn, Lussier, Goodman and Gunderman

B) Data & Demographics; Erickson, Krumpotich and Learmont

C) Programming & Presentations; Joselyn, Krumpotich and Erickson

UPDATES:

6. Review Flavors of Our Community

7. Blandin Foundation

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

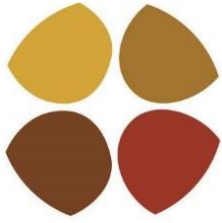
SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN:

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING APRIL 30, 2023**

	<u>Actual 4/30/2023</u>
Human Rights Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 7,500
Name Plates	342
Indigenous People's Day	-
Postage Expense	-
	<u>-</u>
Grants Received	-
Balance Available	<u><u>\$ 7,158</u></u>



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023
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, March 29, 2023 at 4:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Angella Erickson
Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner Tasha Connelly
Commissioner Amanda Lussier
Commissioner Joan Gunderman

ABSENT:

Commissioner Bernadine Joselyn
Commissioner Ashley Goodman
Commissioner Edward Krumpotich

CITY STAFF: Chery Pierzina, Human Resources 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.)

Motion was made by Councilor Connelly and Second by Commissioner Gunderson to approve two additional agenda items; 1) City Email Protocol/Open Meeting Law Review and 2) Review Flavors of Our Community handout. All in favor, motion passed.

PRESENTATION: Monthly Speaker-March
No presentation.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. February 22, 2023 Minutes

Motion was made by Councilor Connelly and Second by Commissioner Lussier to approve the February 22, 2023 Minutes. All in favor, motion passed.

FINANCIALS:

2. Review March 2023 Financials

The Commission reviewed the financials and still questioned if the "carry-over" will be listed. Human Resources Officer Chery Pierzina stated that the City Administrator said that the additional funding would be available upon request.

BUSINESS:

3. Workplan

The Commission discussed upcoming events such as Pride and Juneteenth. VEMA is not spearheading Juneteenth this year in Grand Rapids. They are having an event in Chisholm and can't do two events and it is too big of an event for 6 to 8 people to do right now. The banners for the event will still go up even though there may not be an event scheduled.

4. Church Group

A group from the Community Presbyterian Church came to speak with the Human Rights Commission. They discussed promoting community involvement and outreach and are looking for ideas to collaborate and partner. They also let the Commission know that the speaker and best seller "Nadia" from Colorado is coming June 23 at 7pm at the Reif. It will be free and open to the public. The Commission would like to set up a work group for this opportunity to collaborate.

5. Work Groups

The Commission discussed that one work group has already met, the others need to get the ball rolling. The Work Groups are as follows:

Community Event Work Group; Joselyn, Lussier, Goodman and Gunderman
Data & Demographics; Erickson Krumpotich and Learmont
Programming & Presentations; Joselyn, Krumpotich and Erickson

Also noted that, Andy Morgan will be the new Police Chief starting May 1st, he will replace Chief Steve Schaar who is retiring. The Commission may request an introduction in the future.

6. Review Web-Based Post

A review of the web-based posts show that the Commission is keeping the Protective Class definition page each month. The next 3 months are ready for posting.

7. City Open-Meeting Law.

City Human Resource Officer, Chery Pierzina, who is the City's Liaison to the Commission discussed emails. The Commission needs to be more careful not to "reply all" to any emails sent which would possibly be a quorum and thus violate the Open Meeting Law. Also, she noted that agenda items need to be submitted one week prior to go on to the agenda for the upcoming meeting.

8. Flavors of Our Community.

Commissioner Lussier brought to the Commission the Project Plan handout for 2023 Flavors of Our Community. She stated that this was started as a Food Initiative from the United Way for April. The first year they are only focusing on schools within Grand Rapids and are not going Countywide or to the Second Harvest yet. There will be a press release going out tomorrow.

UPDATES:

9. Workplan Presentation

The Workplan Presentation to the City Council went well.

10. Human Rights Awareness Day

There were ten classes and the total students were about 250. The presentations went extremely well.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES: None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

3. Review Workplan, Current and Q3 & Q4

4. Work Groups - Listing Each Group

UPDATES:

5. Review Flavors of Our Community

6. Blandin Foundation

ADJOURN:

Motion made by Commissioner Gunderman, Second by Commissioner Learmont to adjourn the meeting at 5:32pm. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

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Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission Calendar Year 2023 Work Plan

Prepared in accordance with Commission By-laws, Article 10

DRAFT

2023 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	Improve Marketing Efforts - Add information / Events to HRC web page? - Protected classes highlights for social media - Other opportunities to raise awareness of human rights related events, content to-be-determined for currently existing City social media - Additional materials/supplies (banner/tablecloth/etc.)			\$750	
<i>Protected Class Spotlight:</i> Jan – None Feb – Race Mar – Sex	New commissioner on-boarding and commissioner training and education -Establish work group 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	City code Division 6 Commission Bylaws, including Article Ten		\$100	
	Human Rights Awareness – Presentations w/ 318 High School Students Continuation of presentations offered in December 2022 to raise awareness on human rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. <i>Work group developed to explore opportunities with adults as well (ex. community ed, MN North – Itasca, faith groups, etc.)</i>			\$300	
	Reif Players Connect/Conversation Explore opportunities to invite and/or visit with Reif Players re: donation to the HRC.			-	

1

<p>Workgroup Development Identify major yearly events/interests and assign commissioners to support. The commission believes this will encourage more proactive approach to some of our events and partnering opportunities. Possible groups may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indigenous Peoples Day – Data & Demographics – Commissioner Training – Programming and Presentations – Marketing <p>Gather and evaluate demographic data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review 2022 data to review and inform possible changes to work plan and priorities -Possible training with Ben Winchester of UMN Extension -Gather or develop information on areas of greatest concern regarding human rights issues -Develop, as appropriate, activities or policy recommendations to address human rights concerns 				-	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with Will Richter from Library • Outreach to Wilder 	\$500
				Sec. 2-303(3)(1, 2, and 6) Sec. 2-301 (a)	
					\$1,650
				City code Division 6 Commission Bylaws	\$100
<p>Q2 April – June</p> <p><i>Protected Class Spotlight: Apr – None May – Age June – Sexual orientation</i></p>					
				Commissioner on-boarding and commissioner training and education	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct training for new and existing Commissioners -Reports at commission meetings to improve knowledge about commission duties, human rights issues, and human rights concerns 	
				Outreach to Jessica B. / Anishinaabe Education re: Indigenous People's Day Celebration 2023	
				Reminder work group should meet with prior to school summer break and begin conversation on support needed	-
				Outreach to Girls and Boys Club	
				Reach out to see about possibly collaboration opportunities with B&G Club during their summer programming in April	-
				Sponsorship of MacRostie and "Waiting for Beds" Exhibit in May	
				More details TBA – total project \$2—3K, centers on disability	\$500
				Support Juneteenth Day Event	
				Sec. 2-303(3)	\$2,000

	-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				
	Involvement in Pride - Look for opportunities to be involved in and/or support community events, outreach, or publication			\$1,000	
	Quarter Total			\$3,600	
Q3 July – Sept <i>Protected Class</i> <u>Spotlight:</u> July – None Aug – Disability Sept – National Origin	Commissioner training and education -Identify and support commissioner training and education opportunities	City code Division 6 Commission Bylaws, including Article Ten		\$100	
	Human rights educational opportunities -Explore / discuss Reif Center, District 318, Arts & Culture Commission or other human rights partnership opportunities	Sec. 2-303(3), Sec. 2-301(a)(5)		\$500	
	Boys and Girls Club – Presentations/Partnerships				
	Quarter Total			\$600	
Q4 Oct – Dec <i>Protected Class</i> <u>Spotlight:</u> Oct – Religion Nov – None Dec – Public Assistance	Commissioner training and education -Send select commissioners to attend annual Human Rights Symposium organized by the MN Department of Human Rights (typically in December)	City code Division 6 Commission Bylaws, including Article Ten		\$100	
	Indigenous People's Day Cosponsor activities or publications to further human rights purposes with regard to indigenous people in the city	Sec. 2-303(1, 3) Article(10)(3, 5)		\$2,500	
	Human Rights Awareness Events - Human Rights Day (Dec 10) 75th Anniversary -Community Conversations	Sec. 2-301 Sec. 2-303(5)		\$1,000	

	-Possible tie to school collaboration -Possible speakers and presentations - Possible Event					
	Quarter Total				\$3,600	
	2023 Commission Budget		\$7,500			
	2022 Carry Over		\$4,167			
	TOTAL BUDGET		\$11,667			
	Budgeted Expenditures				\$9,450	
	Uncommitted Funds				\$2,217	
	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