



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 29, 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, 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 Gunderman 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