



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024  
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, February 28, 2024 at 4:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Krumpotich at 4:00pm.

### ROLL CALL:

#### PRESENT

Commissioner Doug Learmont  
Commissioner Amanda Lussier  
Commissioner Amy Blomquist  
Commissioner Ronald Grossman  
Commissioner Bernadine Joselyn  
Commission Chair Ed Krumpotich  
Council Representative Rick Blake

#### ABSENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson  
Commissioner Joan Gunderman

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 made by Commission Chair Krumpotich, Seconded by Council Representative Blake to add two agenda items; 2A. Commissioner Joselyn - Announcement and 6A. Blanket Exercise. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commission Chair Krumpotich, Commissioner Joselyn, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman and Council Representative Blake.**

PRESENTATION:

None.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve January 31, 2024 Minutes

**Motion made by Commissioner Joselyn, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to approve the minutes from January 31, 2024. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commission Chair Krumpotich, Commissioner Joselyn, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman and Council Representative Blake.**

FINANCIALS: No Changes

BUSINESS:

2. Introduction of New City Representative

The Commission welcomed City Council Representative Rick Blake.

2A. Commissioner Joselyn had an announcement for the Commission. Her term has expired, this is her last meeting and she will not be returning for another term. It was also discovered that Commission Chair Krumpotich's term is up and he will not be returning as well.

3. Election of Officers

The Commission tabled this item until their next Commission meeting.

4. Revisit Work Groups

The Commission decided to table the reorganization of the work groups until their next meeting.

5. 2024 Work Plan Finalization

The Commission needs to present the 2024 Work Plan to the City Council. It was suggested to reach out to Vice Chair Erickson to see if she would like to present it to the City Council.

6. City Government Academy

A schedule of the City Government was attached in the packet and a handout was given to the Commissioners regarding information for the City Government Academy. The deadline to sign up is March 15th.

6A. The Blanket Exercise is scheduled for April 8th at 6pm at the Yanmar Arena with the City Council and the Arts & Culture Commission. It was requested that the Human Rights Commission participate and fund this Event.

**Motion made by Commissioner Joselyn, Seconded by Commission Chair Krumpotich, to partner with the Arts & Culture Commission and approve funding for the Blanket Exercise at Yanmar Arena on April 8th, 2024, up to half of the cost or a not to exceed**

**amount of \$500, whichever is less. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commission Chair Krumpotich, Commissioner Joselyn, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman and Council Representative Blake.**

UPDATES:

7. Onboarding & Training

The Onboarding Packet issue has been resolved and will go out to new Commissioners who are appointed for March 1, 2024.

Discussion that the State Human Rights Commission no longer offers training. But there are still a variety of things available and if requested, they may send a speaker up here from St. Paul.

8. Work Group Updates

- A) Community Event Work Group; Joselyn, Lussier and Gunderman
- B) Data and Demographics; Erickson, Krumpotich and Blomquist
- C) Programming and Presentations; Joselyn, Krumpotich and Erickson

8C. Commissioner Joselyn suggested that the Commission should bring in more programming from the Community. With the Commission's approval, someone from the existing Local Pride Group or the new group that has formed, could come and speak.

8A. Discussed that the Commission could do a better job of partnering with Schools, Businesses, Community and the Native Education Program. It was recommended to continue with the three events on the Work Plan; Pride, Juneteenth and Indigenous People's Day.

8B. Data and Demographics of the Community as a whole helps the Commission hit topics or situations that the Community may face. This information assists the Commission to prepare, be aware of and see the broader picture of what may impact our Community. The Commission needs to share information that they learn to educate people.

9. Banner Placement Update

The Commission discussed the email handout from Vice Chair Erickson regarding the posters. City Council Representative Blake really liked the last sentence on the poster, that it could be separated on it's own. There was no motion on purchasing the posters at this time.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

- 2. Introduction of New Commissioners
- 3. Election of Officers
- 4. Reorganization of Work Groups
  - A. Community Event Work Group; Lussier and Gunderman
  - B. Data and Demographics; Erickson and Blomquist

C. Programming and Presentations; Erickson

5. 2024 Work Plan
6. Poster/Banner Placement
7. Approve Onboarding Packet

UPDATES:

8. Nami Training
9. Blanket Exercise Attendance

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman