



# **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