



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 29, 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, 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