



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 25, 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, January 25, 2023 at 4:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson
Commissioner Bernadine Joselyn
Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner, City Councilor Tasha Connelly
Commissioner Edward Krumpotich
Commissioner Amanda Lussier

City Attorney Chad Sterle

ABSENT

Commissioner Ashley Goodman
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 Commissioner Joselyn, second by Commissioner Krumpotich to add Protective Class Media Posts to the Agenda. All in favor, motion passed.

PRESENTATION:

1. Monthly Speaker: January

None, but Commissioner Joselyn suggested that Seraphia Gravelle, who is at VEMA, Voices for Ethnic and Multicultural Awareness, could possibly come to be the monthly speaker in February. She could turn in an invoice for transportation and/or childcare to the city for reimbursement. There was also a suggestion that the Commission could view the Voices of Grand Rapids Event from a year ago for the race protected class.

APPROVE MINUTES:

2. Approve December 28, 2022 Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Joselyn, second by Commissioner Connelly to accept the December 28, 2022 Minutes. All in favor, motion passed.

FINANCIALS:

3. Review Financials

The Commission reviewed the financials for the end of the year, December 2022.

BUSINESS:

4. Election of Officers

Nominations were taken from the floor and Commissioner Krumpotich was nominated for the Commission Chair.

Motion was made by Commissioner Erickson and second by Commissioner Joselyn to nominate Commissioner Krumpotich as Commission Chair. All in favor, motion passed.

Nominations were taken from the floor and Commissioner Erickson and Commissioner Learmont were nominated as Commission Vice Chairs. Commissioner Learmont declined the nomination.

Motion was made by Commissioner Krumpotich and second by Commissioner Joselyn to nominate Commissioner Erickson as Commission Vice Chair. All in favor, motion passed.

5. Introduction of New City Councilor to the Commission

There was no change to the appointment from the City Council to the Commission. City Councilor Connelly will continue to serve on the Human Rights Commission.

6. City Email

There are no issues with the City email.

UPDATES:

7. Human Rights Awareness Day - Recap

Discussion by the Commission regarding the Human Rights Awareness Day. There is one teacher still interested in having the presentation from the Commission for the 3 or 4 sections of their World History Class. The work group will continue tuning their presentation and check on scheduling with the teacher at ISD 318.

In order to have any form of press on the presentations, the ISD 318 would need to be contacted. It would all depend on their policies and procedures in order to move forward with any press idea. Commissioner Erickson would like to propose that after the second round of presentations, that the work group draft a letter to the ISD 318 Superintendent to arrange some form of press for the presentation.

Also, discussed was asking for someone to fill in for the presentation since Commissioner Gunderman will possibly be absent. Commissioner Lussier volunteered to assist with the presentation.

8. 2023 Workplan Finalization

Discussion from the Workplan of how does the Commission move forward with the protective classes. Questions were raised as to what is the education standpoint, the intent of having the monthly highlighted speakers and getting the public involved. It was said that the monthly speakers are a platform to highlight issues and that it reverts back to the Commission's mission statement.

The discussion then emphasized identifying work groups according to the WorkPlan. These work groups would assist with the Commission's focus to reaching out ahead of time to partner for upcoming events such as Indigenous People's Day and the Human Rights Awareness Day.

Here are the work groups that will parallel the Workplan:

Community Events: Commissioners Joselyn, Lussier & Erickson

Data and Demographics: Commissioners Erickson, Krumpotich & (Learmont-?)

Programming & Presentations: Commissioners Joselyn, Krumpotich & Erickson

Motion made by Commissioner Erickson and second by Commissioner Joselyn to adopt the 2023 Workplan. All in favor, motion passed.

9. Added Agenda Item Protective Class Media Post

The protective class media posts would consist of using the fliers created by Commissioner Erickson last year. The Commission would like to post and then rotate these on a monthly basis on the city's website and social media account, facebook and possibly the library's social media page.

Motion made by Commission Chair Krumpotich and second by Commissioner Lussier to approve the monthly protective class postings for the city webpage and the city's other social media. All in favor, motion passed.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

4. Work Groups

5. Web-based Posts: Monthly Protected Class

UPDATES:

6. Human Rights Awareness Day

ADJOURN:

Adjourn at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman