

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof a regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission was held in Council Chambers, Grand Rapids City Hall, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Commissioners Erickson, Hodgson, Joselyn, Learmont, Friesen and Connelly. Absent: Commissioners Lopez-Cortez and Stoll.

Staff: City Attorney Chad Sterle and Cynthia Lyman

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Chair Friesen called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA: Motion by Commissioner Learmont, second by Commissioner Connelly to accept Agenda, passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 30th, 2021 Human Rights Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Joselyn, second by Commissioner Erickson to accept the June 30th, Human Rights Commission Meeting minutes. All in favor, motion passed.

FINANCIALS: \$9,727.00 no change, no motion needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ACCOLADES: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) 2020 Census Data (Data Demographic Workgroup Combination):** Commissioner Hodgson said that there is nothing at this time.
- 2) Commissioner Onboarding** (Workgroup Friesen, Stoll & Connelly): No updates at this time except that there was discussion on resources for new Commission members and that the information from the binder needs to be scanned. Commissioner Erickson volunteered to take this on. It was also mentioned that documents for the history of the Human Rights Commission should also be included in the information given to new Commission members.
- 3) Indigenous Peoples Day Update:** Discussion that there is no theme yet. Commission Chair Friesen has an idea that the theme should be “movement”. Performers such as Larry Ozzy are booked at the Reif and renowned hoop dancers. Commissioner Joselyn asked about a proclamation and Commissioner Connelly responded that the city does this already. Commissioner Erickson asked to join the Indigenous Peoples Day Committee and the Commission did not see a problem with that.
- 4) Monthly Speaker Invitation:** This item moved forward for time constraints as City Attorney has to depart from the meeting early. Myrna Peterson is the honored guest for this meeting. She thanked the Commission for the opportunity to be heard and recalled the 2015 wheel chairs rolling event that had a great turn out. She also mentioned that these four items: Transportation, Access, Sidewalks/Curbs and Awareness were on the top of the list for this community. She also spoke that this is all personal to her and until something happens to you, you don't see the barriers to these four things.

Myrna continued that both the City and the Foundation have given overwhelming support. There is more awareness in the schools and Mobility Mania raised money for an accessible playground, ballpark and vans were purchased for mobility. She also spoke about the new project coming, the “Autonomous Shuttle,” that even MDI wants to see in the city. Matt Wegwerth, City Engineer is working on the City's ADA Compliance Plan, but City Attorney Chad Sterle said that it is still two years out. Myrna spoke about different businesses that are going beyond to assist disability patrons such as MDI and Aldi. The more educational awareness is out there especially by able-bodied people the more people are understanding the accessibility issues that people with disabilities face.

- 5) **True Tuesdays:** There was no discussion on this item, to be taken off of the next agenda.
- 6) **Juneteenth Banner:** Discussion regarding contacting MNDOT on how they sponsor/allow for a banner for a free, public event. Need to get all information and Commissioner Jocelyn then volunteered for the text of the Banner.
- 7) **Combatting Anti-Asian Discrimination Discussion/Response and Flyer:** Commissioner Jocelyn added a draft Resolution to the Human Rights Commission Meeting Packet for review. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Learmont questioned whether it is a concern in this community. Would it not explode once you bring this concern up in this Resolution? The Commissioner Learmont is worried that it would actually bring out hatred and is suggesting that the Resolution needs to be revised, but he appreciates having the discussion prior to after the fact. Commissioner Erickson stated that we have to be careful and mindful regarding this subject and wondered if there could be a hate crime that we have not heard about or maybe the police department may know of it.
- 8) **Review Work Plan for Future Approval:** Discussion and feedback on the changes to the Work Plan. Commissioner Hodgson stated that in the last box of Quarter 1, it should read “continue work that has already started, related to “Hearing and Disabilities”. Commissioner Erickson also stated that the Commission needs to ask the City Attorney, Chad Sterle if they can offer the monthly speakers a small stipend of \$30.00 to \$100.00 for their speech.

Commission members commended Commissioner Erickson for doing a great job on the Work Plan. Commissioner Erickson then volunteered to bring the Work Plan to the City Council and Commissioner Friesen will be the 2nd.

Motion by Commissioner Erickson, second by Commissioner Learmont to accept the 2022 Work Plan for the Human Rights Commission. All in favor, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Grand Iron Range CAV Initiative:** This item tabled until the next meeting.
- 2) **Reviewed State Auditor Article:** The Commission reviewed the document from the State Auditor regarding minute taking.
- 3) **ADA Map & Text:** Add to Grand Iron Range CAV Initiative for next agenda.
- 4) **Ho-Chunk Nation Plaque – Correspondence from 9-25-19:** Discussion regarding the letter from Barb Sanderson relating to the Ho-Chunk Nation Plaque from the Human Rights Commission packet. The Commission stated that this probably needs to be brought back to Tom, possibly intended for the Anishinabe, tabled until 2022.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES: There are no calls/complaints or inquiries.

SETTING NEXT AGENDA: The next agenda will be on the new Municode format:

- **Commissioner On-Boarding**
- **Indigenous Peoples Day Community-Wide Workgroup**
 - **Review City Proclamation**
- **Juneteenth Event (Banner for 2022)**
- **Combatting Anti-Asian Discrimination Discussion-Review Resolution Revision**
- **Monthly Speaker Invitation**
- **State of Minnesota Department of Human Rights Commission – Training Opportunities for Fall 2021**
 - **League of MN Human Rights**
 - **Minnesota Humanities Center**
- **Grand Iron Range CAV Initiative and ADA Map/Text**

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman

