



# **CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 29, 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, November 29, 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 4:00pm by Commission Chair Krumpotich.

### **ROLL CALL:**

#### **PRESENT:**

Commissioner Bernadine Joselyn  
Commissioner Doug Learmont  
Commissioner Tasha Connelly  
Commissioner Edward Krumpotich  
Commissioner Amanda Lussier  
Commissioner Joan Gunderman  
Commissioner Amy Blomquist

#### **ABSENT:**

Commissioner Angella Erickson  
Commissioner Ronald Grossman

City Staff Present: Human Resources Officer Chery Pierzina

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 Learmont, Seconded by Commissioner Connelly to approve the Agenda as presented. Voting Yea: Commissioner Joselyn, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Connelly, Commissioner Krumpotich, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Gunderman and Commissioner Blomquist.**

PRESENTATION:

1. Guest Speaker

No speaker for this meeting.

#### APPROVE MINUTES:

2. Approve October 25, 2023 Minutes

**Motion made by Commissioner Connelly, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to approve of the October 25, 2023 Minutes with a name correction on Joan Gunderman under 8A. Voting Yea: Commissioner Joselyn, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Connelly, Commissioner Krumpotich, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Gunderman and Commissioner Blomquist.**

#### FINANCIALS:

3. Approve Financials for November 2023

**Motion made by Commissioner Connelly, Seconded by Commissioner Krumpotich to approve the November 2023 Financials. Voting Yea: Commissioner Joselyn, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Connelly, Commissioner Krumpotich, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Gunderman and Commissioner Blomquist.**

#### BUSINESS:

4. Workplan Review - Quarter 4, 2023

Discussion around whether the Commission was going to do anything for the International Human Rights Awareness Day - Dec 10th. The Commission would like to do a press release and possibly have some kind of ad in the Herald Review commemorating the day.

**Motion made by Commissioner Joselyn, Seconded by Commissioner Krumpotich to authorize the Human Rights Commission to draft an ad on behalf of the Human Rights Commission honoring the Human Rights Day Declaration up to \$1,000. Voting Yea: Commissioner Joselyn, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Connelly, Commissioner Krumpotich, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Gunderman and Commissioner Blomquist.**

After discussion of the funds still available to the Commission, they decided to rescind the above motion and amend it to read "up to \$500.00 and donate any excess funds left to the Kootasca Event on January 6th, 2024". It was also noted that there should be a notice posted that there may be a possibility of a Quorum of the Human Rights Commission at this Kootasca Event on Jan 6, 2024.

**A second motion was made by Commissioner Connelly, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to amend the amount of \$1,000 for the Human Rights Day Declaration ad to read up to \$500 and add that any funds not spent on the ad be donated to Kootasca for the Gay Men's Choir Event on January 6, 2024. Voting Yea: Commissioner Joselyn,**

**Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Connelly, Commissioner Krumpotich, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Gunderman and Commissioner Blomquist.**

5. Discuss and Approve Funding Request for Kootasca's 2024 Event

Discussion requesting a \$1,000 donation for the Kootasca Event featuring the Gay Men's Choir on January 6th, 2024.

**Motion made by Commissioner Krumpotich, Seconded by Commissioner Joselyn to authorize a donation of \$1,000 for the Kootasca Event featuring the Gay Men's Choir on January 6th, 2024. Voting Yea: Commissioner Joselyn, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Connelly, Commissioner Krumpotich, Commissioner Lussier, Commissioner Gunderman and Commissioner Blomquist.**

UPDATES:

6. Work Groups

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

Discussion regarding the work groups.

A) When the Community Event Work Group has an event they're working on, it was requested that others from the Commission assist. Other Commissioners help is welcomed, but if in a group setting, only up to four can participate at a time without notice of a quorum.

B) No Updates

C) The Programming and Presentation Group will meet in December.

7. 2024 Workplan Review

During the discussion of the 2024 Workplan, the Community Events Work Group would like to start discussing and organizing teams for the upcoming events early in 2024. As discussed earlier in the meeting they are requesting that other Commission members team up to assist with these upcoming events.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

- 4) 2024 Workplan Review
- 5) Remaining Budget

UPDATES:

- 6) Work Groups
  - A) Community Event Work Group; Joselyn, Lussier and Gunderman

- B) Data and Demographics; Erickson, Krumpotich, Learmont and Blomquist
- C) Programing and Presentations; Joselyn, Krumpotich and Erickson

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman