



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday, August 27, 2025
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, August 27th, 2025, at 4:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Blomquist at 4:02pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner Amy Blomquist
Commissioner Ronald Grossman
Commissioner Katelyn Dokken
Commissioner Julee Jackson
Commissioner Stephanie Meittunen
Commissioner Janet Miller
City Liaison, City Attorney Chad Sterle

ABSENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson
Council Representative Molly MacGregor

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 Jackson to approve the agenda as written. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Commissioner Miller

PRESENTATION:

None.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. July 30th, 2025, Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Learmont, Seconded by Commissioner Grossman to approve the minutes from July 30th, 2025. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Commissioner Miller

FINANCIALS:

2. Review July 2025 Financials

No approval needed per City Attorney Chad Sterle.

BUSINESS:

3. Review Bylaws & City Ordinance Documents

City Liaison, City Attorney Chad Sterle said that the bylaws are 20 years old and even with one small change to attendance, they have not been changed. He would like the Commission to review them to see if they need any changes. This item will go on the September meeting for discussion.

Commissioner Dokken arrived at 4:10pm.

4. Workplan

The Commission would like to add the worksession which happens around October/November to the Workplan and also clarify when the 2026 Workplan would need to go to the City Council.

UPDATES:

5. Community and/or Internal Collaboration
6. League of MN Cities-Braver Angels Workshop & Annual Conference

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

7. CNA WG: Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioners Meittunen & Blomquist
ADA Compliance: Commissioners Learmont & Erickson
Community Events WG: Commissioners Erickson, Jackson and Dokken
City Staff/Volunteer Survey WG: Commissioners Erickson and Jackson

CNA Work Group: Commissioner Meittunen said this is done and she will send out.
ADA Compliance: The Commission reviewed the ADA letter to the Mayor and City Council and decided it was ready to be submitted to the Mayor and the City Council.

Motion made by Commissioner Grossman, Seconded by Commissioner Dokken to send the letter, "*Recommendation to City Council: Strengthening Local Leadership in*

Accessibility Advocacy and Planning'' from the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission to the Mayor and City Council. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Meittunen, Commissioner Miller

Community Events WG: Commissioner Jackson gave an update on the Indigenous People's Day Event. She said that it's been difficult getting a hold of contacts through the summer for the event. The work group will meet one more time to discuss following up with some leads for the event.

City Staff/Volunteer Survey WG: The City does not want the Diversity Survey sent to the City Staff. The numbering in the survey is correct in the packet.

8. Community Engagement/Education

This item to be tabled as it will be combined with agenda item #5.

9. Current Events

Commissioner Grossman would like the Commission to brainstorm on how the Human Rights Commission can collaborate on assisting the children and families that are facing deficits due to the cutting of public funds. City Liaison, City Attorney Chad Sterle added that it could be added to the 2026 Workplan. Commissioner Blomquist suggested that it could be a work group.

There are also other things going on such as the Library Cutbacks and people are not happy about their cutbacks.

Commissioner Blomquist will reach out to the Department of Health & Human Services to possibly have a presenter at next month's meeting.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

City Liaison, City Attorney Chad Sterle said that there has been nothing this month.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

3. Review Bylaws & City Ordinance Documents
4. Workplan

UPDATES:

5. Community Engagement/Education and/or Internal Collaboration
6. League of MN Cities-Braver Angels Workshop & Annual Conference
7. CNA WG: Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioners Meittunen & Blomquist
ADA Compliance: Commissioners Learmont & Erickson
Community Events WG: Commissioners Erickson, Jackson and Dokken
City Staff/Volunteer Survey WG: Commissioners Erickson and Jackson
8. Community Events

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 5:23pm. Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman.