



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday, February 22, 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, February 22, 2023 at 4:00PM in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The Human Rights Commission was called to order by Commission Vice Chair Erickson at 4:18pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Angella Erickson
Commissioner Bernadine Joselyn
Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner Ashley Goodman
Commissioner Amanda Lussier
City Attorney Chad Sterle
Human Resources Officer Chery Pierzina

ABSENT

Commissioner Tasha Connelly
Commissioner Edward Krumpotich
Commissioner Joan Gunderman

PUBLIC INPUT (if anyone wishes to address the Commission):

City Attorney Chad Sterle introduced City Human Resources Officer Chery Pierzina who will be his replacement as the City Liaison to the Commission.

The topic of the Itasca County Board passing the 2nd Amendment Resolution was discussed.

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 was made by Commissioner Joselyn and Second by Commissioner Goodman to add three Agenda Items; Church Group w/Human Rights Interests, Workplan Review and the Discussion/Email on Agenda Approval. All in favor, motion passed.

PRESENTATION:

1. Monthly Speaker: February

In lieu of the scheduled speaker, who could not come to the meeting, the Commission reflected and discussed the segments from the Community Voices presentation that took place at the Reif Center December 7, 2021.

APPROVE MINUTES:

2. Approve January 25, 2023 Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Joselyn and Second by Commissioner Learmont to approve the January, 25, 2023 Minutes. All in favor, motion passed.

FINANCIALS:

3. Review January 2023 Financials

The Commission reviewed the financials and wondered about the "Carry-Over" that does not appear on the January statement. City staff will check into it and let the Commission know.

BUSINESS:

4. Work Groups

The Commission discussed the work groups and would like to check on the Commissioners that are not currently signed up for one of them. They will check on their interest in a work group to be a part of.

5. Web-based Posts

The Commission discussed the web-based posts. One thing that was brought up was that the posts should use the original slide from January that has the information on it for each posting, with the monthly protected class post. There is no need for a motion as the original motion is sufficient for the entire year of postings.

6. Church Group

Commissioner Learmont followed up on a correspondence from a church group. They were going to come to tonight's meeting, but they did not show up. They would like to set up a work group, but the Commission needs to be careful as to not have Church and State issues.

7. Work Plan

The Commission will be bringing their Work Plan to the Grand Rapids City Council for review. An update will be given after the meeting with the City Council on February 27th. A notice will be posted that there is a possibility of a quorum of the Human Rights Commission at that City Council Meeting.

8. Administrative

Quick discussion of the administrative email that was sent out. It stated that the City Administrative Assistant will be sending out the agenda to the Human Rights Commission Chair for review and approval, one day prior to it being emailed out. The email also stated the deadlines to submit anything for the City Council Meetings, which would be noon on the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

UPDATES:

9. Human Rights Awareness Day

The Human Rights Awareness Day Presentations have gone well. The presentation tied into what the class of 36 eleventh graders is learning right now. There are still thoughts to do a

news story on the presentations, but it has go to through the School District as not to jeopardize future collaborations.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

3. Workplan
4. Church Group
5. Work Groups
6. Review Web-Based Posts

UPDATES:

7. Workplan Presentation to the City Council
8. Human Rights Awareness Day

ADJOURN:

Meeting Adjourned at 5:50pm

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman