



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 25, 2026
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, March 25th, 2026, 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 Vice Chair Blomquist.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Doug Learmont
Commissioner Amy Blomquist
Commissioner Ronald Grossman
Council Representative Molly MacGregor
Commissioner Janet Miller
Commissioner Stella Leone
Commissioner Brittany Pope-Sears
Commissioner Renee Ducharme

ABSENT

Commissioner Stephanie Meittunen

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 Grossman, Seconded by Commissioner Learmont to approve the agenda as presented. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Leone, Commissioner Pope-Sears, Commissioner Ducharme. Motion Passed

PRESENTATION:

None.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve Minutes from February 25th, 2026

Motion made by Council Representative MacGregor, Seconded by Commissioner Learmont to approve the February 25th, 2026, Minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Leone, Commissioner Pope-Sears, Commissioner Ducharme. Motion Passed.

BUSINESS:

2. Introduction of New Commissioners

The Commissioners welcomed the new appointees, and both introduced themselves.

3. Election of Officers

Motion made by Commissioner Learmont, Seconded by Commissioner Grossman to elect Commissioner Blomquist to the position of Human Rights Commission Chair. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Grossman, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Leone, Commissioner Pope-Sears, Commissioner Ducharme. Voting Abstaining: Commissioner Blomquist. Motion Passed.

Motion made by Commissioner Learmont, Seconded by Council Representative MacGregor to elect Commissioner Janet Miller to the position of Human Rights Commission Vice Chair. Voting Yea: Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Leone, Commissioner Pope-Sears, Commissioner Ducharme. Voting Abstaining: Commissioner Miller. Motion Passed.

4. 2026 Workplan

The Human Rights Commissioners discussed other opportunities to present information to other Committees and Boards. Commission Chair Blomquist stated that the objective is to do four per year, but that doesn't mean that they can't do more. For instance, Commission Vice Chair Miller would like to add the LAC next month to the work plan. They are waiting to hear from the Grand Itasca Board and the Blandin Foundation. Council Representative MacGregor will check on those.

One other opportunity would be with School District 318's Council of Athletes run by Athletic Director Dale Christy. The question came up from the newly appointed Commissioners as to why there is no funding and Council Representative MacGregor let them know that there was half a million cut from the City's Budget with a zero percent levy.

Commissioner Grossman stated that even without funding it is important to connect with other groups. The Human Rights Commission banner can be set up anywhere.

The Pridefest will be on June 14th this year due to Father's Day being on June 21st. Commission Vice Chair Miller will be asking for volunteers soon.

5. Grand Rapids Area Human Rights Fund Draft-Community Foundation

Commissioner Learmont handed out a draft of the GR Area Human Rights Fund. Please review for any changes you may like to see and Mindy at the Community Foundation needs to check the revisions, then the Human Rights needs to approve the final draft and then it needs to go to the City Council for their approval because they have restrictions and so does the Community Foundation.

6. HRC Presentation

Commission Vice Chair Miller will be using the HRC Presentation at the Kiesler House on April 2nd at 11am. Open to others to come.

UPDATES:

7. Housing

There was a press release/proclamation for Fair Housing.

8. City Council Updates

The City Council approved the updates to the Human Rights Commission ordinance that the HRC had been working on.

9. Stomp on Stigma

Commission Chair Blomquist said that this event is a good opportunity for the Human Rights Commission to volunteer and have our banners out. She will talk to the organizers regarding a plan. The city will post a notice of quorum for the event.

10. Community Engagement/Education and/or Internal Collaboration Work Group: Commission Vice Chair Miller is using the Story Stitch for her groups at Kiesler. Commissioner MacGregor said that the Story Stitch class with Community Education didn't have enough people, so it wasn't a go.

Interfaith Work Group: Commissioner Grossman went to a meeting and talked about the Human Right Commission and what they do.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

2. 2026 Workplan
3. GR Area Human Rights Fund Draft-Community Foundation
4. Walk for Life - September

UPDATES:

5. Housing

6. City Council Updates
7. Stomp on Stigma
8. Community Engagement/Education and/or Internal Collaboration WG: Commission Vice Chair Miller and Council Representative MacGregor
9. Interfaith WG: Commissioner Grossman

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22pm.
Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman