

Human Rights Commission

April 28, 2020 – 6:30 pm

Via Cisco Webex

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

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- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Attendance/Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
January 28, 2020 regular meeting minutes
- 5. New Business**
 - A. Commission Member Annual Guidelines Review
- 6. Old Business**
 - A. 2020 Work Plan Discussion
 - * Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Commission may discuss proposals to change the 2020 Work Plan.
 - B. Subcommittee Discussion (as result of the 2020 Work Plan Discussion)
- 7. Adjournment**



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Human Rights Commission

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2020 – 6:30 pm
Council Conference Room
Golden Valley City Hall
7800 Golden Valley Road

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Chair Mitchell.

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Chris Mitchell, Teresa Martin, Jonathan Burris, Carrie Yeager, Kyle Scott, Destiny Nathan, and Eve Clarkson

Commissioners absent: Leah Persky

Council member present: Maurice Harris

Staff present: Kirsten Santelices, Human Resources Director/Staff Liaison

Guests present: Shennon Black, Community Member, Scott Seys, Chair of City of Golden Valley Environmental Commission, and Colin Bartol, Community Member

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Chair Mitchell to reorder new business items and old business items and approve agenda. Approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Commissioner Scott to approve December 17, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted. Seconded by Commissioner Burris. Motion Carried 7-0.

New Business

Environmental Commission Discussion

Chair Mitchell introduced Scott Seys, Chair of the Environmental Commission (EC). Scott shared a brief overview of the purpose of the Commission and recent work of the Commission. Scott shared the EC met to discuss their 2020 work plan and is interested in the possibility of partnering with the HRC on an action in 2020. Suggestions included looking at climate action plans, providing people education on energy efficiencies, and benchmarking with other cities on emissions. Commissioner Nathan suggested a focus on climate change and homelessness and Chair Mitchell suggested focusing on disparities based on climate change. The two chairs decided to stay in touch and provide information back to full commissions.

MN Council of Churches

Community member Shennon Black provided a background on "Respectful Conversations," the purpose of which is to "communicate and soften hearts." Shennon is affiliated with Valley of Peace church, who is interested in hosting a conversation on racial equity, is seeking partners. Shennon brought a handout along, which Staff Santelices will share with the Commission. The Commission asked questions about the event and shared with Shennon some other organizations who may have interest in partnering. The Commission agreed to consider this partnership as part of their 2020 Work Plan discussion.



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City Council Member Update

Former Commissioner and current City Council Member Maurice Harris stated his intent to provide ongoing support to the Commission and agreed to have a five-minute placeholder once each quarter for updates and as a check-in.

League of Women Voters

Staff Santelices shared an opportunity presented by the League of Women Voters and read an email invitation from Martha Mix to co-sponsor the “Race in our Neighborhoods” event. Commission was concerned about the short notice but all Commissioners were in full support of the LMV and their events.

MOTION by Commissioner Scott to co-sponsor the event and provide a stipend of \$25 per facilitator up to \$150. Seconded by Commissioner Burriss. Motion Carried 7-0.

Staff will ensure that the League of Women Voters is aware that the HRC is supporting and will promote the event via social media and the website.

Affordable Housing Survey

City staff shared the opportunity for the HRC to participate in an online survey to help the City identify its priorities over the next 5-10 years. The Commission discussed at length whether or not to engage in the Housing Affordable survey as an individual vs. as a group. Several commissioners discussed a desire to give feedback as a group from the Human Rights Commission. The Commission decided between two additional options: 1. Create a subcommittee and remaining members provide feedback to the subcommittee, or 2. Meet again in February. At this the committee discussed a number of dates/times but could not find an opportunity to meet and decided to just submit individual feedback with their “HRC hat on.” Staff will email the survey to everyone from Cathy (the City’s consultant).

Work Plan Discussion

The Commission discussed at length the opportunities available to them in 2020 by reviewing the Draft 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Work Plan document. Chair Mitchell mentioned Ellen Kennedy and her work with CEDAW, as well as her interest in presenting more information on CEDAW to the Commission at a later date. The Commission agreed that they are interested in exploring more on this topic.

The Commission continued to discuss other topics and agreed that some of the proposed topics overlap in their reach, including voter rights education, 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage, and the equal rights amendment. The Commission agreed that they would like to see some specific goals created and met in 2020, and look at creating a calendar of events, building in time earlier in the year to prepare and plan.

The Commission decided against providing initial support to the Race in our Neighborhoods partnership with Valley of Peace church, but indicated they may be willing to support the initiative by promoting it once the event is planned.

Commissioner Martin introduced community member Colin Bartol to discuss the next possible topic: Re-Evaluating ACLU Policies. Colin asked the Commission to consider adding the topic to their Work Plan. The Commission discussed the topic briefly and recapped the decisions made by the City Council in 2017-2018. Staff reminded the Commission that policy directives must come from the City Council to the Commission. The Commission agreed to ask the City Council for direction.

MOTION by Chair Mitchell to approve the draft work plan as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Scott. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Staff Santelices will type up the amendments and suggestions to the Work Plan and email the document to the Commission. The Commission will provide any feedback prior to the March 10 Council Manager meeting, where the Annual Work Plan will be presented to the City Council for approval.

Old Business

MLK Literary Contest

The Commission was disappointed not to receive any submissions this year. They discussed a variety of options that may increase participation in the future, including increasing the cash prize, working with one school directly, or changing the type of contest. The Commission will add this to the Work Plan to discuss these options in detail for the 2020-2021 contest.

Sweet Potato Comfort Pie Recap

Commissioners in attendance recapped the event and encouraged future support for these events.

MLK Breakfast

The Commission is still very excited about this event, and the ability to provide opportunities to community members to attend. The Commission suggested highlighting the event more prominently on social media and the website, creating better visibility for individuals who want to request tickets.

Adjourn

MOTION by Commissioner Scott to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Clarkson. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Chris Mitchell, Chair

ATTEST:

Kirsten Santelices, Staff Liaison

2020 Proposed Work Plan

The Golden Valley Human Rights Commission (HRC) proposes the following work plan for 2020.

Goals for this year include:

- Partner with other city human rights commissions and community service organizations on education or outreach opportunities.
 - Explore opportunities to educate the community.
- Further update and enhance communications strategies
 - Explore opportunities for community partnerships regarding human rights resources.
- Partner with Environmental Commission on environmental initiatives and the impact of climate change on Human Rights (potentially as a day of service initiative)

Tentative Outline:

Q1: Jan-Mar

- Work Plan discussion (Jan)
- Co-Sponsor League of Women Voter's Race in Our Neighborhoods (Feb)
- Golden Valley Pride planning (Mar)
- Consider continuation of annual MLK Day Contest (Mar)
- Restrictive Covenant Education and Discharge Next Steps Planning (Mar)
- Equal Rights Amendment and 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage planning (Mar)

Q2: Apr-Jun

- Human Rights Day planning/Human Rights City discussion (Apr)
- Day of Service planning
- Equal Rights Amendment and 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage planning
- Research land acknowledgment
- Golden Valley Pride booth (Jun)

Q3: Jul-Sep

- Complete research and provide information to the City Council on land acknowledgments (Jul)
- Human Rights Day planning
- Bill Hobbs Award promotion
- Promote Equal Rights Amendment and 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage (Aug)
- Day of Service (on or around Sep 11)

Q4: Oct-Dec

- Sweet Potato Comfort Pie planning
- Human Rights Day planning
- December 10 – Human Rights Day promotion
 - Bill Hobbs Award (in conjunction with Human Rights Day)
 - Partner with Golden Valley Library
- Purchase table for 2021 MLK breakfast