

Human Rights Commission

September 22, 2020 – 6:30 pm

Cisco WebEx

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

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1. **Call to Order**
2. **Attendance/Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Approval of August 25, 2020 Minutes**
5. **Old Business**
 - A. CEDAW Overview – Commissioner Persky
 - B. MLK Literary Contest Discussion
 - C. Environmental Commission Partnership
 - D. Just Deeds Project Update
 1. Commission Partnerships
 2. Educational Opportunities
6. **New Business**
 - A. Police Commission Task Force
 - B. Bill Hobbs Award Update
 - C. Future Agenda Topics
7. **Adjournment**



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Human Rights Commission

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 25, 2020 – 6:30 pm
Via Cisco Webex Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Chair Yeager.

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Chris Mitchell, Destiny Nathan, Carrie Yeager, Jonathan Burris, Leah Persky, Teresa Martin, Kyle Scott and Naamah Murphy (7:07 pm)

Commissioners absent:

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

Guest: Maria Cisneros, City Attorney

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Commissioner Burris to approve agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Scott.
Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Commissioner Persky to approve July 29, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted.
Seconded by Vice Chair Mitchell. Motion Carried 7-0.

Old Business

Subcommittee Updates

Environmental Commission Partnership

Vice Chair Mitchell shared that the Environmental Commission formed a subcommittee and the group is working on a time to meet. The EC is still excited and has some ideas on how to collaborate.

Unfortunately, given the timing, no plans will be made for the upcoming Day of Service. Commissioner Martin recommended connecting with Mark Seely at the University of Minnesota and will share that contact information with Vice Chair Mitchell.

Land Acknowledgment Subcommittee

Commissioner Martin shared a brief overview of the information collected from Mayor Harris on the land acknowledgment topic. Commissioner Martin and Staff will reach out to former Commissioner Giese to ensure that the good work of Commissioner Giese is not lost. Once that information is gathered, the subcommittee will review and continue the research.

MLK Human Rights Contest Discussion

Commissioner Nathan proposed the topic of Allyship, as a prompt for the contest. The group agreed that the topic of Allyship was very relevant to current events and to the work of Martin Luther King Jr. The



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Commission discussed and decided on a Martin Luther King Jr quote that aligned with the prompt. Commissioner Nathan will update the rubric to remove the criteria that is only relevant to written work. The group decided that the rubric should be placed with the promotional materials. Staff and Commissioner Nathan will work together with the Communications team to create these materials. The whole group may give input as needed before it is released.

The Commission discussed whether or not the contest this year should be specific to the Black Lives Matter movement. They agreed that a broader concept of Allyship should be the focus, but that individual participants may choose to reference Black Lives Matter as their subject matter. The group also agreed that they should work to make this more appealing to youth and connect with the school. Additionally, as there will likely not be an in-person event for the winner's work to be shared, it should be shared electronically.

Just Deeds Project Update

City Attorney Maria Cisneros provided an overview for the Commission on all of the work of the Just Deeds project, including the development of the Just Deeds Coalition. Ms. Cisneros took the Commission through the list of partners who have been propelling this work forward, including law firms, real estate and title companies, Mapping Prejudice, neighborhood groups, Hennepin County, and other cities across the State (both metro and outstate). The Just Deeds coalition work has expanded beyond identifying and discharging racially restrictive covenants, into a discussion about how these covenants and other forms of discriminatory practices have significantly contributed to the racial disparities that communities like Golden Valley experience today. These disparities include housing, education, home ownership, transportation, health care, and more. The Just Deeds Coalition is dedicated to not only identifying the historical wrongdoings, but committing to dismantling and rebuilding these systems in an equitable way. The Commission reviewed the Just Deeds Coalition Mission Statement during the meeting.

MOTION by Commissioner Scott to recommend to the City Council that the City join the coalition. Seconded by Commissioner Burriss. Motion carried 8-0.

Staff and the subcommittee will continue updating the Commission on next steps with the coalition and educational and partnership opportunities.

Vice Chair Mitchell shared a request from the Affordable Housing Coalition to sign on to a letter to the local banks and MN Relators association about modern day redlining and lending practices. The question from the Commission was about the authority of the Commission to sign on. Additionally, the full Commission would like to read the letter before moving forward. Staff will send out the letter to the whole group and discuss the authority of the Commission to sign.

CEDAW Overview

Commissioner Persky was prepared to provide a presentation to the group. However, given the time, it was proposed that the topic be moved to the next meeting.

MOTION by Commissioner Scott to move the CEDAW Overview to the September meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried 8-0.

Future Topics

The Commission suggested potentially discussing the topic of voting rights. Staff informed the Commission that the October Building an Equitable Golden Valley topic is on Voting Access.

Adjourn

MOTION by Commissioner Scott to adjourn at 8:40 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Carrie Yeager, Chair

ATTEST:

Kirsten Santelices, Staff Liaison