

Human Rights Commission

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

January 28, 2020 – 6:30 pm

Council Conference Room
Golden Valley City Hall
7800 Golden Valley Road

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Attendance/Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
December 17, 2019 regular meeting minutes
5. **New Business**
 - A. Environmental Commission Discussion with Environmental Commission Member
 - B. MN Council of Churches Respectful Conversations – Co-Sponsorship Opportunity
 - C. League of Women Voters – Race in our Neighborhoods – Co-Sponsorship Opportunity
 - D. Strategic Housing Plan Discussion – City HRA Consultant
 - E. 2020 Work Plan Discussion
6. **Old Business**
 - A. MLK Literary Contest Recap
 - B. Sweet Potato Comfort Pie Event Recap
 - C. MLK Breakfast Recap
7. **Adjournment**



This document is available in alternate formats upon a 72-hour request. Please call 763-593-8006 (TTY: 763-593-3968) to make a request. Examples of alternate formats may include large print, electronic, Braille, audiocassette, etc.



Human Rights Commission

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 17, 2019 – 6:45 pm

Council Conference Room
Golden Valley City Hall
7800 Golden Valley Road

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:56 pm by Chair Mitchell.

Roll Call

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

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

Commission took moment to recognize and thank Commissioner Harris for his service on the commission and congratulations on his election to the City Council. Staff Santelices shared a few administrative updates.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Commissioner Burris to reorder new business items, switching A. Land Acknowledgement Discussion and item B. Impact of Climate Change on Human Rights, seconded by Commissioner Martin. Approved 9-0.

MOTION by Commissioner Harris to approve amended agenda, seconded by Commissioner Burris. Approved 9-0.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Commissioner Burris to approve November 26, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted. Seconded by Commissioner Scott. Motion Carried 9-0.

MLK Literary Contest

Staff shared that there have not been any submissions yet. Commission discussed reposting the contest details with their networks and reminding everyone of the deadline. The Commission also discussed whether or not to lower the age requirement on the contest and/or build a strong relationship with a specific school. The Commission agreed to consider both items for next year. Staff will send the rubric to the judges after January 3, and the Chair of the subcommittee will contact the winner. Commissioner Martin shared that if there isn't a contest winner there may be more time for the Commission to conduct a presentation at the Sweet Potato Comfort Pie event on Sunday, January 19.

Impact of Climate Change on Human Rights

Commissioner Persky shared with the Commission some information on the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis who received grants for their work on climate change and joining the initiatives set forth by Mayor Bloomberg. The Commission discussed the types of work that the City can do to support these efforts. Commissioner Persky shared some specific ideas, including initiatives to lower gas emissions,



This document is available in alternate formats upon a 72-hour request. Please call 763-593-8006 (TTY: 763-593-3968) to make a request. Examples of alternate formats may include large print, electronic, Braille, audiocassette, etc.



introducing community gardens, etc. The Commission discussed ideas like partnering with the Environmental Commission or Spirit of Hope Church who have started work on climate justice.

Staff shared with the Commission a discussion with the City's Environmental Resources Supervisor about the work of the Environmental Commission, specifically related to the Resiliency and Sustainability chapter of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Staff will share the link to that chapter with the Commission. The group shared their interest in learning about the work the Environmental Commission is doing, and the possibility of co-sponsoring an educational event or program. The Commission asked how the City will decide to spend the funds that the City Council budgeted for environmental initiatives. Staff will find out more and report back to the Commission.

The Commission continued to discuss opportunities like hosting events, inviting speakers, working with schools, etc. Other ideas included exploring the impact of climate change on transportation, working with the University of Minnesota, particularly Mark Seely and Ken Blumenfeld, using photos to spread the messages, and hosting question and answer sessions.

The Commission discussed next steps, including reaching out to the Environmental Commission.

MOTION by Commissioner Burris to ask the City's Environmental Resources Supervisor to attend the next HRC meeting and share with the Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Harris with the amendment to include a member of the Commission. Motion Carried 9-0.

Staff will also add this topic to the 2020 Work Plan discussion in January.

The Commission also discussed briefly the 2020 Work Plan and staff suggested that the Commissioners email any ideas Wednesday prior to the January meeting.

Land Acknowledgement

Commissioner Martin shared background on the topic of Land Acknowledgement, which is done to recognize the Native persons who were here first. Commissioner Martin asked if the Commission is interested in looking into this further. The Commission asked about the details of a land acknowledgement. Commissioner Martin shared that she reached out to a Tribal Historical Preservation Officer for the Lower Sioux, Cheyenne St. John, who advised that the Commission approach this topic cautiously. Staff will add "Research Land Acknowledgement" to the work plan.

Adjourn

MOTION by Commissioner Scott to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Chris Mitchell, Chair

ATTEST:

Kirsten Santelices, Staff Liaison