

Human Rights Commission

June 23 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**
May 26, 2020 regular meeting minutes
5. **Chair/Vice Chair Elections**
6. **Old Business**
 - A. Subcommittee Updates
 1. Land Acknowledgment
 2. Special Meeting – Sign Committee
 3. Special Meeting – Statement Committee
 4. Special Meeting – Video Committee
 - B. Commission Partnerships
 1. Environmental Commission Discussion
 2. Planning Commission Discussion
 3. Partners in Energy Request
 - C. Day of Service Planning Discussion
 - D. MLK Literary Contest Discussion
 - E. Human Rights Day Discussion
7. **New Business**
 - A. Discharging Restrictive Covenants Project Update
 - B. Future Agenda Topics Discussion
8. **Adjournment**



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Human Rights Commission

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 26, 2020 – 6:30 pm
Via Cisco Webex Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Chair Mitchell.

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Chris Mitchell, Destiny Nathan, Leah Persky, Mary Giese, Teresa Martin, Carrie Yeager, Jonathan Burris (6:44pm), and Kyle Scott (technical issue, arrived 7:04 pm),

Commissioners absent:

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

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Vice Chair Yeager to approve agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Persky. Approved 6-0.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Commissioner Martin to approve April 28, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted. Seconded by Vice Chair Yeager. Motion Carried 6-0.

New Business

Land Acknowledgment

Commissioner Martin shared guidance that she had received on land acknowledgments and will share that guidance with the whole Commission. Commissioner Nathan also shared research and content from NativeGov.org, which discussed land acknowledgements. Commissioner Giese suggested that any land acknowledgement should have someone from the tribe to be a voice in the decisions, and statements, and in particular part of the tobacco offering. Commission acknowledged that this needs to be done for good reason and include ongoing work, not just “do it to do it.” Commission further agreed that it should be educational in nature. Commissioners Martin, Giese, and Mitchell formed a subcommittee to find out more and work together.

Day of Service

The Commission discussed whether or not PRISM was available and discussed other ideas. The Commission discussed having two different opportunities to engage, one with the Environmental commission, and potentially one with PRISM. Briefly discussed the community garden initiative, and realized it is not to be set until 2022. Will discuss more next meeting.

MLK Literary Contest

The Commission discussed what do to with the essay contest. The discussion included:

- Should the purpose be wider than MLK?



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- Should the contest be more about other creative media, like paintings, collages, and videos, rather than essays?
- Should the Commission partner with one specific school, rather than keep it open to all schools?
- What is the goal of the contest?
- Can we get it in front of teachers ahead of time?
- Should it be organized around a different time of year, like Human Rights Day?
- Should the theme change depending on the work of the HRC, (ie, equal rights amendment in 2020)?
- How would the work be evaluated if it wasn't an essay contest?

The Commission discussed in detail all of these items and decided to make their decision at the next meeting, or at least by the end of the July meeting.

Human Rights Day

The Commission discussed ideas for celebrating Human Rights Day. Chair Mitchell shared that Ellen Kennedy reached out about CEDAW and would like to present at a future meeting. Commissioner Persky has example proclamations of support from CEDAW that can be shared. The Commission agreed that this may be a natural connection to a Human Rights Day Celebration. Additionally, the Commission discussed Women's Rights to Vote topic as a part of the celebration, referencing the speech Council Member Rosenquist gave on the topic. Commissioner Martin also mentioned the work of Sylvia Kaplan, who shared she would be willing to come back and be part of a speaking engagement moving forward. The Commissions will discuss more at the next meeting.

COVID-19 Response Discussion

Staff shared the statement that initially went out about human rights and COVID-19. Commissioners Persky and Nathan will continue on the subcommittee and perhaps contact other cities like Bloomington, Richfield, and Edina, who were recently in the paper for their work on human rights impact of COVID-19. Staff will work with subcommittee to look into it more.

Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Burris shared that the PRIDE Festival was cancelled, but they were doing a virtual event Jun 1-Jun 14. The Commissions discussed sponsorship and what that means, and if they could still donate to PRIDE.

MOTION by Commissioner Scott to donate \$300 to PRIDE if they could and would accept the donation. Seconded by Commissioner Burris.

The Equal Rights Amendment Topic should be added to a future agenda.

Adjourn

MOTION by Commissioner Burris to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Scott. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Chris Mitchell, Chair

ATTEST:

Kirsten Santelices, Staff Liaison

Human Rights Commission

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Jun 5, 2020 – 12 pm
Via Cisco WebEx

Call to Order

Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Chris Mitchell, Leah Persky, Destiny Nathan, Kyle Scott, Carrie Yeager, and Jonathan Burris.

Commissioners absent: Teresa Martin

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

Agenda Item

Discussion on Response to Recent Human Rights Matters in Golden Valley

Staff Member Santelices shared with the group that the City was made aware that there were residents of color in Golden Valley who shared recent discriminatory behavior by their white neighbors. The City Council and staff have asked the Human Rights Commission to assist with a response to this report.

The Commissioners shared their anger and sadness at hearing this report. The Commission began discussing items that they have heard from the community, including Rose McGee's sweet potato pie, and Valley Allies work with Meadowbrook on a letter-writing campaign. The Commission discussed other ways that the HRC could visibly condemn the discriminatory and hateful behavior. They decided on three ways. The Commission is going to work to create yard signs, craft a statement to be put out on City social media and the website, and prepare a video of solidarity.

The Commission agreed to create three separate subcommittees.

1. Sign Committee: Carrie and Leah
2. Video Committee: Destiny and Mary
3. Statement Committee: Chris, Jonathan, and Kyle

Adjourn

MOTION by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Yeager. Carried by unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned at 1:04 pm.

Chris Mitchell, Chair

ATTEST:

Kirsten Santelices, Staff Liaison



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