

Human Rights Commission

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2021 – 6:00 pm
Via Cisco Webex Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Chair Scott.

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Kyle Scott, Chris Mitchell, Jonathan Burris, Teresa Sit, Teresa Martin, Destiny Nathan, Naamah Murphy, Thomas Huling, and Leah Persky (6:33pm)

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

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Commissioner Mitchell to add Environmental Commission Partnership to old business. Seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried 8-0.

MOTION by Commissioner Burris to accept amended agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Huling. Motion carried 8-0.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Commissioner Huling to approve December 22, 2020 meeting minutes as amended with administrative corrections. Seconded by Vice Chair Mitchell. Motion Carried 8-0.

Announcements

Human Rights Commission and Rising TIDES Task Force Merger

Staff Santelices shared with the Commission the goal of the City, which is to keep the work of the Rising TIDES Task Force going within an existing Commission. Given the overlap in some of the work of the Task Force and HRC, staff recommends the creation of a new commission to incorporate the work of both groups. Commissioners had questions about the workload and capacity, to ensure there were enough members to keep up with the work of both groups. Staff agreed and suggested that a subcommittee of HRC members and Rising TIDES members work together to create the new commission. Commissioners Sit, Scott, and Martin volunteered for the subcommittee. Staff shared that the City Council will see a first draft of the plan in March, and the full commission will continue to receive updates on the plans moving forward.

CEDAW Proclamation Update

Staff Santelices shared that the City Council is interested in passing a proclamation of support and asked the group who had interest in working with staff to draft the proclamation. Staff mentioned that the proclamation could include an educational component as well. Commissioner Persky showed interest. Staff will send out meeting opportunities.



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Land Acknowledgement Update

Staff shared that the Council was appreciative of the research by the HRC on the topic of Land Acknowledgements and asked that the HRC continue this work in 2021. This includes a community engagement process to include the Indigenous and Native American populations.

Old Business

MLK Sweet Potato Comfort Pie Event and MLK Breakfast Table Recap

Commissioner Martin gave an overview of the event, which was national, and stated that the group was able to bake pies and lead great discussions. There was a diverse group of attendees and they were able to spend more time in breakout sessions. Staff shared that two of the pies were delivered to Mapping Prejudice and to the City's new Equity and Inclusion Manager, Kiarra Zackery. Commissioner Burris provided a brief recap of the breakfast, which he described as "emotional and passionate." Commissioner Nathan stated that she was very impressed and inspired by the speakers. Staff shared that community members continue to be grateful to the HRC for providing the opportunity to attend this event each year.

Just Deeds Update

Staff Santelices provided an update that the first Robbinsdale Community Education presentation was the same evening. The website rollout was pushed back to February and there are more cities interested in joining, including Crystal, Minnetonka, and St. Louis Park. The City of St. Paul is also interested in working with Mapping Prejudice as they map Ramsey County. Staff also shared that City staff Romano has vacated his position with the City and that for the time being all communications on boards and commissions and Just Deeds can go to Staff Santelices.

Police Commission Task Force Update

Commissioner Huling shared that the previous two subcommittee meetings were focused heavily on setting priorities and getting into more substantive work.

Environmental Commission Event Reminder

Vice Chair Mitchell reminded everyone of the event on Thursday, January 28. Dr. Mark Sealy from the University of Minnesota will discuss Climate Change in Minnesota: Implications and Disparate Impacts. Encouraged all Commissioners to share with their networks.

New Business

Work Plan 2021

The group discussed some ideas for 2021 but agreed that it made sense to think about how the work of TIDES will fit in to the larger plan. Staff mentioned that ongoing work will continue, like the CEDAW proclamation, Land Acknowledgement, and PRIDE festival participation, etc.

Staff shared that the HRC is scheduled to go forward at the May Council/Manager meeting with the work plan. Commissioner Persky shared that a lens of health equity may be something to incorporate into future work of the commission. Commissioners agreed that the new commission looking at equity, diversity, and inclusion makes a lot of sense. Specifically given the disparate impacts of the pandemic on

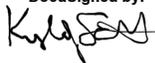
populations of color. Commissioners also agreed that the topic of human rights is engrained into diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work.

Staff shared that the March agenda will continue the discussions of the work plan and Commission transition. Vice Chair Mitchell shared that the EC is still interested in future projects together.

Staff reminded the Commission that the joint meeting is on February 23 starting at 6 pm. Commissioner Nathan offered to speak at the event. Staff will send future details.

Adjourn

MOTION by Commissioner Burris to adjourn at 6:55 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

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Kyle Scott, Chair

ATTEST:

Kirsten Santelices
Kirsten Santelices, Staff Liaison