



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 420 N. POKEGAMA AVE.
DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021
TIME: 4:00 P.M.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission is to promote a community of harmony and respect for the rights and dignity of all.

BE ADVISED: Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.021, Subdivision 1, some or all members may appear by telephone or other electronic means.

4:00 CALL TO ORDER:

CALL OF ROLL:

Commissioner Connelly: Council Representative
Commissioner Erickson: 6/20-3/23
Commissioner Ensley: 3/18-3/21
Commissioner Friesen, Chair: 3/18-3/21
Commissioner Hodgson: 6/20-3/23

Commissioner Learmont: 3/19-3/22
Commissioner Lopez-Cortes, Vice Chair: 3/19-3/22
Commissioner Leann Stoll: 6/20-3/23

SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA:

This is an opportunity to approve the regular agenda as presented or add/delete an Agenda item by a majority vote of the Commission members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DECEMBER 30, 2020 Meeting

FINANCIALS: \$4,297

PUBLIC COMMENT/ACCOLADES:

This is an opportunity for anyone from the public to address the Commission regarding comments, concerns and accolades.

CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE:

BIG VIEW UPDATE:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Update on Colored Lines
- SEEN Exhibit update
- Work group update on new commissioner onboarding
- Look at 1st Quarter goals on Work Plan and check progress of projects.
- Setup City issued email
- Demographic information update from workgroup

NEW BUSINESS:

- Resignation of Commissioner Moren
- Post vacant Commissioner position

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

SETTING NEXT AGENDA:

ADJOURNMENT:

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020**

	<u>Actual 12/31/2020</u>
Human Rights Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 7,500
Seen Exhibit Support	3,200
Postage Expense	3
	-
	-
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Grants Received	-
Balance Available	<u>\$ 4,297</u>

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof a regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission was held in Council Chambers, Grand Rapids City Hall, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Commissioners Learmont, Connelly, Ensley, Hodgson, Stoll Friesen. Absent: Erickson, Lopez-Cortes, Moren.

Staff: Chad Sterle, Janell Hecimovich

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Friesen called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

SETTING AGENDA:

Amended to add collaboration information regarding the State level of Human Rights and how to work together.

Motion by Commissioner Connelly, second by Commissioner Hodgson to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Learmont, second by Commissioner Stoll to approve minutes for November 25, 2020. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

FINANCIALS:

Review of financials; no change.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ACCOLADES:

No public attendance.

CIRCLE OF HEALING:

Playground completed – no further update.

BIG VIEW UPDATE:

1619 Series podcast was posted online. No further scheduling.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Website Update.
- 2) Update on Colored Lines: HRC considered for the viewing of the video. Takes an hour & half to dedicate to it. Will be working towards the viewing for the group
- 3) Create workgroup for demographic data: Learmont, Hodgson, Erickson.

- 4) Connect with IT on your city emails
- 5) Ball Club playground: No new news but playground was completed in November.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Create a workgroup for the onboarding of new members and creating bios: Connelly, Friesen, Stoll
- 2) Department of Human rights looking for a group of people to assist them in actions that they should/could be taking. How to be more beneficial.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

- 1) Line through the city had one call – but the call did not fall into the scope of the HRC

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- Revisit 1st Quarter Work plan
- Workgroup update on onboard training
- SEEN exhibition update
- City issued emails
- Colored Lines update
- Demographic information update from workgroup

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Janell Hecimovich, Administrative Assistant

Data and Demographic Work Group – Memo to City of Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission, January 2021

The data and demographic work group was created by the Human Rights Commission for the City of Grand Rapids to:

- *Gather or develop demographic data.* From this data we are to identify the most significant human rights concerns in our community, and
- *Develop strategies, activities, and policy recommendations* to address said concerns.

The work group utilized several sources to review data and demographics for Grand Rapids and surrounding area, including:

- Kootasca Community Action. (n.d.) *Kootasca Community Action 2020 Community Needs Assessment Brief*. Kootasca Community Action. <https://www.kootasca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/KOOTASCA-Community-Needs-Assessment-2020-Brief.pdf>
- MN Compass. (n.d.-a) *Northland Region Data*. MN Compass (Wilder Research). <https://www.mncompass.org/profiles/region/northland>
- MN Compass. (n.d.-b) *Grand Rapids Data*. MN Compass (Wilder Research). <https://www.mncompass.org/profiles/city/grand-rapids>

After reviewing the data, this work group recommends to the Human Rights Commission to further investigate two areas of interest:

- Disability – defined as including, but not limited to: hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, independent living difficulties
 - 19.6% of City of Grand Rapids population has a disability (MN Compass, n.d.-b).
 - This is higher than what is reported at both the Northland Region and state level, at 17.4% and 11% respectively
- Housing – access, issues
 - 25% of households in poverty reported that housing that is safe to live in was a problem (Kootasca, n.d.)
 - 26% of those who were homeless, were homeless more than one year (Kootasca, n.d.)

One additional observation that was noted within the work group was that the members approached and considered Grand Rapids as a city to not be an “island” – and reflecting on how the City exists within the larger context of the county, region, and state are important considerations.

The work group suggests these two areas of human rights interest (disability and housing) for further study during 2021 especially as they relate to protected areas as defined by state law and because they relate to the quality of life in Grand Rapids.

To further investigate, this work group recommends looking into additional data sources to see what the data says or suggests about the issues of disability and housing in our community, and to see what opportunities exist for the Human Rights Commission as it may relate to activities or policy/action recommendations to the City of Grand Rapids. The work group would like to contact City Administration to determine if City Staff resources could be used to assemble this additional data.