



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2A, 420 N. POKEGAMA AVE.
DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020
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.

4:00 CALL TO ORDER:

CALL OF ROLL:

Commissioner Ensley, Vice Chair: 3/18 – 3/21
Commissioner Learmont: 3/19 – 3/22
Commissioner Friesen: 3/18 – 3/21
Commissioner Leming-Salisbury: 3/19 – 3/22
Commissioner Hicks: 5/1 – 3/20

Commissioner Schirber: 3/17 – 3/20
Commissioner Turman: 3/19 – 3/20
Commissioner Lopez-Cortes: 3/19 – 3/22
Commissioner Moren, Chair: 3/18 – 3/21

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.

CANCELLED

PRESENTATION: “Know Your Rights” – Audel Shokohzadeh

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 18, 2019 Meetings

FINANCIALS:

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:

- Consider sponsoring Support Within Reach “Start By Believing” campaign in the amount of \$890
- Continue discussion on City Comprehensive Plan

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discuss seeking support for bringing refugees to Grand Rapids
- Committee report addressing inappropriate and unprofessional behavior of the Grand Rapids Police Department

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

ADJOURNMENT:

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 Conference Room 2A, Grand Rapids City Hall, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Commissioners Learmont, Schirber, Moren, Lopez-Cortes, Erickson, Turman, Ensley, Friesen and Leming-Salisbury. Absent: None.

Staff: Kimberly Gibeau

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

SETTING AGENDA:

Additions to old business:

- None

Additions to new business:

- Police Dept. Facebook
- Comprehensive Plan
- Discuss possible book purchase

Motion by Commissioner Learmont, second by Commissioner Schirber to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Lopez-Cortes, second by Commissioner Erickson to approve minutes for November 27, 2019 as presented. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

FINANCIALS:

Review of financials; no change.

Motion by Commissioner Lopez-Cortes, second by Commissioner Leming-Salisbury to approve the financials as presented. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Moved forward from old business:

- 1) Request from Support Within Reach to co-sponsor "Start By Believing" campaign: Sherry Shadley presented background information on organization, current projects, purpose and goals. There will be an educational film series at ICC, with some presentations including speakers. Ms. Shadley is requesting Commission consideration for sponsoring events in 2020 in the amount of \$890.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ACCOLADES:

Commissioner Leming-Salisbury distributed a sample script to assist members in addressing/answering issues and complaints brought forward by community members. Also shared was a handout sharing information on native studies. Both are made part of the permanent record.

CIRCLE OF HEALING:

Noted success of home grown teacher program; secured grant from Ball Club community for \$5000 for playground.

BIG VIEW UPDATE:

January 9th – Children’s Defense Fund presentation from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Grand Rapids Area Library.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Consider request from Support Within Reach: This will be considered at the January 2020 meeting, after the 2020 budget is in place.
- 2) 2020 Work Plan – Reviewed draft plan developed by Commissioners Erickson and Learmont. Following reorganizing some items and identifying clear action plan, the following motion was made.

Motion by Commissioner Friesen, second by Commissioner Leming-Salisbury to approve the 2020 Workplan. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Police Department Facebook post: The Grand Rapids Police Department has begun a new process of “Warrant Wednesdays,” consisting of posting names and photos of individuals that currently have a warrant for their arrest. This is viewed as inappropriate and in poor taste. The posts have since been removed. Members feel this should be addressed by the Commission in a statement or request to the Police Department to show respect to these protected individuals and keep it on a professional level. A committee is formed to plan how to address this issue.
- 2) Comprehensive Plan: Discussed upgrading of City of Grand Rapids Comprehensive Plan, which is currently underway. It does not appear to address Human Rights at all. Does the Commission want to get involved, requesting Human Rights issues be addressed in the plan? Staff recommends contacting Community Development Director, Rob Mattei and City Administrator, Tom Pagel, requesting they attend a meeting to provide information about the Comp Plan.
- 3) Consider book purchase: There is a recommendation to purchase children and young adult diversity books to distribute for use in the Library and School District 318.

Motion by Commissioner Friesen, second by Commissioner Schirber to purchase books on diversity for children and young adults to be shared with the Library and the school district for an amount not to exceed \$1,200. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

- Commissioner Ensley noted that she had been involved in a situation with a wellness check requested of the Grand Rapids Police Department. The officers that were on the call were very rude.
- Commissioner Lopez-Cortes stated that an individual told her that he was advised that his supervisor at CVS Target Pharmacy admitted that he was homophobic and the individual walked out of work and filed a complaint.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- Consider request for sponsoring Support Within Reach program “Start By Believing.”
- “Know Your Rights” presentation – Audel Shokohzadeh.
- Committee report: Addressing inappropriate and unprofessional behavior of the Grand Rapids Police Department.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<u>Actual</u> <u>12/31/2019</u>
Human Rights Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 5,000
Haven Community Event Sponsorship	500
Kootasca Big View Acting Black: Demystifying Racism 9/10	500
Kootasca Big View The LGBTQ Community & Poverty 10/17	500
MacRostie Beyond Borders Indigenous Invitational Exhibit Support	500
MacRostie Indigenous Peoples Day Speakers/Facility Use	1,497
Human Rights Books	1,222
	<u>-</u>
Grants Received	-
Balance Available	<u>\$ 281</u>
