

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2B, 420 N. POKEGAMA AVE.**

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2019

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 Erickson: 5/19 – 3/20

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

INTRODUCTION: Angella Erickson, New Member

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.

PRESENTATION:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 29, 2019 Meeting

FINANCIALS:

PUBLIC COMMENT/ACCOLADES:

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

CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE:

BIG VIEW UPDATE:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Proposed budget for 2020
- Indigenous People's Day

NEW BUSINESS:

- Consider sponsoring Circle of Healing events on September 10, 2019 & October 17, 2019, hosted by the Reif Center at \$500 each for a total of \$1000.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

ADJOURNMENT:

MAY 29, 2019 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 2B, Grand Rapids City Hall, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Commissioners Doug Learmont, Deanna Ensley, John Schirber, Alice Moren, Whitney Leming-Salisbury, Paola Lopez-Cortes and Lea Friesen (arrived at 4:15). **Absent:** Commissioner Laurie Turman.

Staff: Kimberly Gibeau, Chad Sterle

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

SETTING AGENDA:

Requested additions to agenda:

- Old Business: 1) Census update; 2) Indigenous Peoples Day
- Calls/Complaints/Inquiries: 1) Juneteenth

Motion by Commissioner Schirber, second by Commissioner Leming-Salisbury to approve the agenda with additions. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

GUEST: City Attorney Chad Sterle discussed open meeting law, noting that most violations are via electronic communication and unintentional; reviewed Ordinance establishing the Commission and its purpose and responsibilities. Attorney Sterle cautions the Commission against providing any recommendations that may be perceived as legal advice. Instead, the Commission should direct complainants to the Minnesota Department of Human Rights for assistance with charges or accusations of human rights violations.

PRESENTATION: Aaron Jordan-Peterson and Liz Branum of Haven provided overview of the LGBTQIA organization, including upcoming events and plans to hold a community festival similar to Pride events held in June. There is a discussion group, open to the public, hosted every Monday at 5:30 PM at the Keisler Wellness Center.

Scott Casper, scheduled to present, is not in attendance.

Commissioner Turman, via phone, disconnected from the meeting at 4:28 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It is noted that the agenda listed the minutes for approval as March 27, 2019, when they are from the April 24, 2019 meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Leming-Salisbury, second by Commissioner Lopez-Cortez to approve minutes for the April 24, 2019 Regular Meeting. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

FINANCIALS:

The Commissioners reviewed the financials that were provided in the agenda packet.

Motion by Commissioner Friesen, second by Commissioner Schirber to approve the financials. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ACCOLADES:

Commissioner Lopez-Cortez indicated that she works for an attorney in Grand rapids, and while reviewing an audio recording of a Police interview with a client, the Grand Rapids Police Investigator used the term “mexican” when asking questions in reference to a physical description. Commissioner Lopez-Cortez stated that this was very upsetting and offensive. After further discussion, she will write a letter to the Investigator involved with the intention to educate.

CIRCLE OF HEALING:

Commissioner Moren provided a review of upcoming annual events that will be open to the public, including a film series. There will be two performance events held at the Reif Center: 1) “Acting Black” on September 10, 2019; and 2) an untitled performance centered on LGBTQIA issues on October 17, 2019. A request for financial support from the Commission is noted at \$500 for each performance event. This request will be on the agenda for the June 26th meeting for consideration.

BIG VIEW UPDATE:

No update at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Census update: Previously, the Commission discussed assisting in the Census, encouraging indigenous people and immigrants to participate. Would like support in getting information out and promoting the importance of an accurate count.
- 2) Indigenous Peoples Day: Committee will consist of Commissioners Leming-Salisbury, Ensley, Schirber and Friesen. There will be a meeting with Kayla Aubid, at MacRostie Art Center, to discuss collaboration and details.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) 2020 Work Plan & Budget Discussion: Commissioners Schirber, Learmont and Friesen will work on building a draft work plan and budget, and bring back to the Commission at the June 2019 meeting. Upon approval by Commission, budget request will be submitted to Tom Pagel, City Administrator, to be considered for 2020 budget planning.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- Consider approving sponsorship of Circle of Healing events at the Reif Center totaling \$1,000.
- 2020 Work plan and budget discussion

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

Commissioner Leming-Salisbury notes that Juneteenth, marking the emancipation of the last remaining enslaved people in the United States, is on June 19th. Requesting flags be placed out in remembrance, similar to Memorial Day flags. Referred to Kevin Koetz at Public Works.

Motion by Commissioner Leming-Salisbury, second by Commissioner Friesen to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m. Motion passed unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

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

	<u>Actual 5/31/2019</u>
Human Rights Budget	\$ 5,000
Indigenous People's Day Expenses (encumbered)	500
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Balance Available	<u><u>\$ 4,500</u></u>

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Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission

2020 Budget Request

Including:
Summary Report of 2016-2018 Budget and Activities
Update on 2019 Work Plan
2020 Budget Request

June 26, 2019

A Discrimination-Free Community

The goal of the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission is to promote human rights and dignity, respect diversity, and eliminate hate, prejudice and discrimination.

The Minnesota Human Rights Act (#363) prohibits discrimination in business, credit services, education, employment, housing, public accommodations and public services.

It is illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, age, sex, color, creed, disability, familial status, marital status, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or status with regard to public assistance or local human rights commission activity.



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Grand Rapids, Minnesota Human Rights Commission

2016-2018 Summary Report

(Note: The City of Grand Rapids budget amount is shown. Complete costs of all programs and activities significantly exceeded the city budget funds but were implemented by leveraging the city portion of expenses with funds, grants, donations, and in-kind services from collaborating partners)

2018:

Total amount budgeted by city: \$ 5,000

Major activities:

- ◆ Lead organizer and collaborator on October Indigenous People's Day, profiles on notable native Americans
- ◆ Co-sponsor of "Navigating Information in a Post Truth Era" at ICC
- ◆ Coordination of Busticogan artwork purchase with Arts and Culture Commission
- ◆ Development of 2019 Commission priorities and work plan
- ◆ Immigration Education Series support
- ◆ Support of Green Card Voices presentations
- ◆ Review and update of city code relating to Human Rights Commission
- ◆ Review and update of Human Rights Commission bylaws
- ◆ Heard relevant guidance from city attorney
- ◆ Communication and coordination with Circle of Healing, Big View
- ◆ Receiving and reviewing information from other community groups or citizens regarding program ideas, concerns about human rights related situations, and ideas regarding human rights needs in the community and/or possible collaborative projects
- ◆ Advocates for Human Rights presentation, including presentation at GR High School

2017:

Total amount budgeted by city: \$ 5,000

Major activities

- ◆ Lead organizer, planner, and contributor to October Indigenous People's Day, focus on local indigenous history
- ◆ Communication and coordination with Circle of Healing, Big View
- ◆ Presentations to other city commissions regarding Human Rights Commission role and goal

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- ◆ Receiving and reviewing information from other community groups or citizens regarding program ideas, concerns about human rights related situations, and ideas regarding human rights needs in the community and/or possible collaborative projects
- ◆ “We Are All Criminals” presentations, exhibition, and discussions with collaborating partners
- ◆ Meet, exchange information, and discuss training needs with Chief of Police
- ◆ Update and print Human Rights Commission information cards
- ◆ Conduct student essay competition

2016:

Total amount budgeted by city: \$ 5,000

Major activities:

- ◆ Lead organizer, planner, and contributor to October Indigenous People's Day, focus on celebrating Ojibwe language and placement of signage
- ◆ Convenor and organizer of “Tracks in the Snow” exhibit and presentations at library, police training, and Itasca Community College
- ◆ Communication and coordination with Circles of Support, Circle of Healing, Big View, and Itasca Diversity Alliance
- ◆ Receiving and reviewing information from other community groups or citizens regarding program ideas, expressions of concerns about human rights related situations, and ideas regarding human rights needs in the community and/or possible collaborative projects
- ◆ Discussion regarding hate groups in Grand Rapids, and related letter to the newspaper editor regarding diverse and welcoming community, purchase and distribute window clings
- ◆ Commissioner attendance at state Human Rights conference

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Grand Rapids, Minnesota, Human Rights Commission
2019 Work Plan Update as of June 2019

2019 Goal	Progress to date	Status, work remaining, plan
2019 Budget: \$ 5,000		
1st Quarter, January- March		
a. Promote Human Rights Awareness	Discussion	Continue researching appropriate opportunities
b. Training opportunities for HR Commission	Discussion	Continue researching suitable opportunities
c. Training for other groups, schools, organizations and general public	Discussion	Need has been identified, initial concepts discussed, follow-up planned
2nd Quarter, April- June		
a. LGBTQ Awareness	Heard presentation at HRC meeting regarding community awareness program plans	More information expected about future event
b. Race, ethnicity and religion	Meeting with Minnesota Department of Human Rights officer, presentation by state human rights officer at Blandin Foundation, teleconference with MN Human Rights Commissioner	More information to be developed about opportunities
c. Women		
3rd quarter, July- September		
a. Flexible and responsive		
4th quarter, October-December		
a. Indigenous peoples day	Initial planning and coordination	Planning in progress for collaborative program with MacRostie in October
b. Effects of poverty human rights		
All year		

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a. Outreach, partnering, and networking	Communication to and from Circles of Support, Big View,	Continuing
b. Administrative	Review of city ordinance and bylaws if needed	Periodic, when needed
	Annual budget and program planning	Annual
	Updating and printing of Commission brochure	Periodic, when needed

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Grand Rapids, Minnesota, Human Rights Commission
2020 Budget Request

2020 Goals	Estimated amount
Programs on LGBTQ discrimination	
Programs on race, ethnicity and religion discrimination	
Programs on gender discrimination	
Programs on effect of income on human rights	
Total, Program-specific expenses and contributions:	\$ 2,000 - \$ 8,500
Indigenous people's day:	\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,500
General outreach, partnering, and networking	
Collaborative training for other groups, schools, organizations, or the general public	
Total, General collaboration/partnership:	\$ 2,000 - \$ 7,000
Promote human rights awareness	
Identify community human resource needs	
Concerns expressed by citizens	
Total, Human Rights outreach and research:	\$ 1,000 - \$ 3,000
Commission administrative expenses (Brochure reprinting, other)	
Training for HR Commission members	
Total, Commission administrative and training expenses:	\$ 1,500 - \$ 2,000
2020 Budget request:	\$ 7,500- \$23,000