

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

**DATE: APRIL 24, 2019**

**TIME: 4:00 P.M.**

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**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 Hall: 3/17 – 3/20

Commissioner Ensley, Vice Chair: 3/18 – 3/21

Commissioner Learmont: 3/19 – 3/22

Commissioner Friesen: 3/18 – 3/21

Commission Leming-Salisbury: 3/19-3/22

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

**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:** MN Department of Human Rights ~ Heidi Hovis

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** March 27, 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:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**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 2B, Grand Rapids City Hall, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

**CALL OF ROLL:** On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Commissioners Alice Moren, John Schirber, Doug Learmont, Whitney Leming-Salisbury, Frieda Hall, Deanna Ensley and Lea Friesen.

**Absent:** Commissioners Paola Lopez-Cortes & Laura Turman.

**Staff:** Kim Gibeau, Lauren Van Den Heuvel

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Moren called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Introduction of new member.

### **SETTING AGENDA:**

**Motion by Commissioner Hall, second by Commissioner Schirber to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** February 27, 2019 Regular Meeting

**Motion by Commissioner Schirber, second by Commissioner Leming-Salisbury to approve minutes for February 27, 2019 as presented. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

### **FINANCIALS:**

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

**Motion by Commissioner Ensley, second by Commissioner Leming-Salisbury to accept the financials as presented. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT/ACCOLADES:**

- Commissioner Schirber states that more training addressing racial issues and equality are needed in the community. Commissioner Leming-Salisbury notes some literature that may be helpful in this area.
- Craig Nelson, resident, addresses members regarding an incident at ICC where members of a group known as "Free Thinkers" were present and appeared to be heckling a speaker on his faith based presentation. Mr. Nelson noted that these individuals were very rude and seemed intent on destroying faith in young attendees.

### **CIRCLE OF HEALING:**

The next meeting is scheduled on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Ensley will update the Commission at the regular meeting in April.

### **BIG VIEW UPDATE:**

No specific update at this time. Several programs/trainings are in planning process.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Ensley noted the MN Dept. of Human Rights presentation has been rescheduled to April 24th. Members will work on setting up a public speaking event to take place after the meeting and possibly time to address local law enforcement. Commission members will schedule a venue and work on advertising.

Transgender Day of Visibility presentation is on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Blandin Foundation. This is open to the public. In addressing issues regarding LGBTQ, the Commission will try to arrange for a member to present at the May 29<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

## **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:**

- Regular agenda items

## **CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:**

Discussed report from Commissioner Schirber of a racial incident at a worksite involving some of his employees. Continued education is needed in the community, including possible distribution of information regarding human rights to area employees.

With no other business, Chair Moren adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk

The next regular meeting is April 24, 2019.

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSON**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2019**

	Actual <u>2/28/2019</u>
Human Rights Budget	\$ 5,000.00
Encumbrances:	
2019 Indigenous People's Day	500.00
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Balance Available	\$ 4,500.00
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# DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

*Making Minnesota Discrimination Free*

**Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission**

The Minnesota Department of Human Rights is the state agency within the Governor's Cabinet responsible for enforcing the **Minnesota Human Rights Act**. The **Human Rights Act** is a state law prohibiting discrimination in Minnesota.

Every person in Minnesota is protected by the Human Rights Act as every person, based on their personal characteristics such as a person's race or sex, belongs to one or more of the **Protected Classes**: Race, Color, Creed, Religion, National Origin, Sex, Marital Status, Familial Status, Disability, Public Assistance Status, Age, Sexual Orientation, and Local Human Rights Commission Activity.



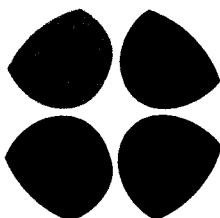
**Heidi Hovis, Enforcement Officer**  
**Minnesota Department of Human Rights**

**Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:00 – 7:30 PM**

**Blandin Foundation**

**100 North Pokegama Ave      Stender Room**

*This presentation is free and open to the public.*



***The Goal of the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission is to work with the community to promote human rights and dignity, eliminate hate, prejudice and discrimination, and respect diversity.***

**The Commission was established by ordinance of the City Council in 2004.**