

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

DATE: JANUARY 31, 2018

TIME: 4:00 P.M.

4:00 CALL TO ORDER:

CALL OF ROLL:

	Present	Absent
Commissioner Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner LaPlant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Learmont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Wimmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Noyce – Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Weidendorf - Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Hartshorn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Moren	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Schirber	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MEETING PROTOCOL POLICY:

Please be aware that the Council has adopted a Meeting Protocol Policy which informs attendees of the Council's desire to conduct meetings in an orderly manner which welcomes all civil input from citizens and interested parties. If you are unaware of the policy, copies (orange color) are available in the wall file by the Council entrance.

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: December 27, 2017 Regular Meeting

FINANCIALS:

PUBLIC COMMENT/ACCOLADES:

CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE:

ITASCA DIVERSITY UPDATE:

BIG VIEW UPDATE:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

ICC Conference – Teresa Alto
Poverty Simulation – Commissioner Moren
Partnering with Itasca Diversity Alliance
2018 Indigenous Peoples Day
Discuss KKK leaflets
Future recognition of MLK Day
2018 Planning: Speaker Series for Grand Rapids

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

ADJOURNMENT:



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Commissioners Jessica Hartshorn, Karen Noyce, Doug Learmont, Melissa Weidendorf, Frieda Hall, Mary Jo Wimmer, John Schirber and Alice Moren

Absent: Becky LaPlant

Staff: Michele Palkki

Visitor: Teresa Alto

CALL TO ORDER Commissioner Weidendorf called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

SETTING AGENDA One Crisis Away – Commissioner Moren
Essay Contest Update – Commissioner Hartshorn

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WIMMER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SCHIRBER TO APPROVE THE REVISED AGENDA. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES October 27, 2017

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HARTSHORN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MOREN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2017 as presented. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

FINANCIALS The end of the month report was not ready; expenditure amounts that have been processed for the month of October and those waiting to be processed were presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ACCOLADES Nothing to report

VISITORS Teresa Alto/ICC

Teresa Alto was present to talk about an upcoming conference that will be held in the spring of 2018 at Itasca Community College. This will be a one-day campus wide conference with breakout sessions to accommodate up to 900 students plus the public.

They envision the conference as broad in scope, covering media, politics, and information literacy/evaluating sources. In addition, programs will be addressing how research is done and experts come to a conclusion on questions like the vaccine controversy (nursing) and climate change (environmental science).

ICC Conference continued

➤ Date is March 22, 2018 - Navigating Information in a Post-Truth Era

Ms. Alto explained that there would be different workshops during the conference. If the Human Rights Commission has any ideas for speakers and/or be interested in co-sponsoring any part of the event it would be great.

- The Commission would like to address this at their January 31, 2018 meeting and invited Ms. Alto to come back to discuss what opportunities there will be. 2018 Budgets will be available at that time. This will be placed on the Agenda for discussion.

FINANCIALS

There is still substantial money available for use before the end of the year. The Commission, at an earlier meeting, spoke about doing a new Rack Card.

A discussion was held regarding Commissioner Schirber to try to track down the PDF to make any changes necessary. It was noted that Rapids Printing was contacted earlier this year regarding making changes to the current card and we were told that it could not be reformatted and therefore the Commission would need to seek out options to produce another one. Nothing has been done at this time.

Commissioner Schirber volunteered to talk with Rapids Printing and find out if we can get the same card done and costs involved. Then a label could be produced and placed over the old names of Commissioners to include the current ones.

RACK CARDS

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SCHIRBER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE SPENDING UP TO \$1,000.00, OUT OF 2017 BUDGET, FOR NEW RACK CARDS. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Nothing to report

CIRCLE OF HEALING – Nothing to report

ITASCA DIVERSITY – Nothing to report

BIG VIEW UPDATE – Commissioner Moren

Commissioner Moren reported that the next events would not be held until February 2018. For the month of February, there will be something each week beginning with First Friday.

- Theme will be One Crisis Away with Jody Pfarr. She has worked with the St. Paul Police Department as well as different class groups, effectively working a diverse world.
- Talks around poverty/class
- Friday, February 2 – First Friday. Working with Katie Marshall from MacRostie
- Tuesday, February 6 – Big View Workshop – Poverty in Itasca County
- Tuesday, February 13 – Poverty Simulation Training – St. Joseph Church
- Tuesday, February 20 – Day long workshops
- Wednesday, February 21 – Meet with Children’s Mental Health, Police Department
- Wednesday, February 21 evening will be Big View Event.

Commissioner Moren reported that they would be looking for volunteers. Also if the Commission would consider financial support.

After a discussion, the Commission requested that this be added to the January 31, 2018 agenda to consider financial support for the poverty simulation event.

ESSAY CONTEST - Commissioner Hartshorn

Commissioner Hartshorn reported that we have one remaining essay winner that has not filled out the W-9 paper work for the city. The city requires this form prior to getting her 2nd place award, which is \$100.00.

This needs to be taken care of as soon as possible so the books can be closed for this event. Commissioner Hartshorn reported that she would email Molly again and express the urgency to get this done.

Staff will wait until they hear something from Commissioner Hartshorn.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Michele Palkki, Administrative Assistant

The next regular Human Rights Commission Meeting is scheduled for December 27, 2017. If it is determined there would not be any significant items to discuss the meeting could be cancelled. Staff will send out the agenda a week prior to the meeting and if it is determined to cancel the meeting, we can do so at that time.

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017**

With Comparative Totals for the Period Ending December 31, 2016

	<u>Actual 12/31/2017</u>
Human Rights Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 5,000
Brochures	225
Poster, Letterhead & Reprints	-
Supplies	-
Copy Supplies	5
Video/Books	-
Advertising	-
Dues	100
Postage	1
Seminars/Meetings/Schools	-
Speaker Expenses	1,419
Equipment Rental	-
Honorariums	-
City Staff Training	-
Contracted Services-Legal	-
	<hr/>
Balance Available	<u>\$ 3,251</u>

Indigenous People's Day	
Grants/Donations	
Northland Foundation	\$ 1,400
R LaPlant HR Essay	90
Blandin Foundation HR Essay Match	-
Total Revenue	<hr/> 1,490
 Expenses	
Civic Center Sign	(1,075)
Supplies	(114)
Essay Awards	(450)
Total Expenses	<hr/> (1,639)
Balance Available	<u>\$ (149)</u>

Proposal Memo

To: Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission Members

From: Teresa Alto, Itasca Community College Associate of Arts Program Coordinator

Date: January 24, 2018

Re: Request for Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission Cosponsorship of 1-2 presenters at the Navigating Information in a Post-Truth Era conference March 22, 2018

Background:

Navigating Information in a Post-Truth Era will be a one-day campus-wide conference at **Itasca Community College** with break-out sessions to accommodate hundreds of students plus the public on **Thursday, March 22, 2018**. Concerned that our students are coming into adulthood in a time of marked distrust of the media and science and cynicism about government and other institutions, and are developing their ideas about a whole range of personal and public-policy issues at a time when their "research" yields biased, often promoted, and even faked information, we decided to incorporate resources into our classes and host this conference. The conference will be broad in scope, covering media, politics, and information literacy/evaluating sources, as well as discipline-/program-based, with disciplines/programs addressing how research is done and experts come to a conclusion on questions like the vaccine controversy and climate change. There will also be interactive sessions focused on social media and what these organizations know about all of us and how they know it, and interactive sessions focused on how to have conversations across political and ideological divides.

Some confirmed sessions/speakers and their topics:

Jerry Nagel of Worldview Intelligence: How our worldview shapes how we take in information (a talk), plus (with Kathy Jourdain) a two-hour World Café discussion

Gene Borgida, Univ. of Minnesota Psychology Professor: How our psychology affects our political and social attitudes and beliefs

Nora Paul, former director of the Minnesota Journalism Center of the Univ. of MN: How to vet information for accuracy

Brian Lambert, former MinnPost and St. Paul Pioneer Press media reporter: The fake news phenomenon

Scott Libin, Hubbard Journalism Professor at Univ. of MN and former newsroom director: How newsrooms navigate ethical issues

MN Secretary of State Steve Simon: Can we trust Minnesota's voting system?

Ini Augustine, CEO of SocialWise Media and founder of Street Genius Radio: Social Media in the Age of Fake News

(Note: This list doesn't include local speakers, who are presenting at no cost as a service to the community.)

The Ask:

Assistance in funding Ini Augustine and/or Jerry Nagel.

Ini Augustine: CEO of SocialWise Media. Her digital marketing firm, SocialWise Media Group, earned her the Aspiring Businesswoman of the Year Award from The National Association of Women Business Owners. As President of the Iowa Black Business Coalition, she created and implemented a program to support entrepreneurship in people of color-The Untraditional Start-A-Thon. President of the Iowa Black Business Coalition, Augustine has expanded her business to Minnesota and does outreach to people of

color to go into business and to go into technology fields. A professional speaker and consultant who does diversity training and specializes in communicating with diverse audiences in social media and marketing campaigns, **Augustine will present on Social Media in the Age of Fake News as well as meet with a group of students of color for a lunch to discuss their career paths and aspirations. Cost: \$750 (half her usual fee) + expenses (estimated at \$375) = \$1125. Seeking \$250 cosponsorship.**

Jerry Nagel (and bonus Kathy Jourdain): Nagel and Jourdain are the founders of Worldview Intelligence. They (Kathy will be joining Jerry gratis) will conduct a **2-hour World Café discussion**, a model of dialogue that seeks to build bridges across divides, after Nagel gives a **presentation on how worldview affects how we take in information. Cost: \$600 + expenses (estimated at \$366) = \$966. Seeking \$250 cosponsorship.**

ONE CRISIS AWAY

We are all just one crisis away from poverty.....

Sadly, more than 43 million Americans are living at or below the poverty line. In the Itasca County area that is true for over 6,000 people. Most people never expected to be in poverty. They never planned on being homeless or near it. They never meant to be waiting in line at the food bank or losing their electricity. While these people struggle day in and day out, many others are just *one crisis away from needing government assistance*.

Being in or near poverty can involve a number of causes like losing a job, medical bills, unexpected illness or injury, working for minimum wage, underemployment, the death of a spouse, changing industries and job outsourcing. America has long been upheld as a place where hard work pays off and parents can expect opportunities to provide a healthy and secure life for their children. Today the middle class has become increasingly endangered, and poverty continues to grow.

ONE CRISIS AWAY.....

Through a collaboration of local partners including Second Harvest North Central Food Bank, Circles of Support, and KOOTASCA Head Start a variety of activities are taking place during the month of February in Grand Rapids under the theme of ***ONE CRISIS AWAY***.

The month is packed with opportunities to learn about the realities of life in poverty as well as chances to participate in unique training offerings.

Certificates of attendance for continuing education hours can be provided for any of the events. Please request certificates upon registration and they will be prepared and available for pick up at the event.

Please share these ***ONE CRISIS AWAY*** events with your contacts.

Thank you.

ONE CRISIS AWAY

Event descriptions:

FEBRUARY 6th

Big View Workshop: Poverty in Itasca County Join local experts to hear about current poverty trends and resources available to assist area residents with basic needs.

9:00 – 2:00 Blandin Foundation Stender Room

Lunch provided. There is no fee to participate. Registration is required.

Register at 218-999-5883 or brianaa@kootasca.org

FEBRUARY 13th

Living on the Edge.....a Poverty Simulation The workshop is a hands-on, interactive simulation that allows the participants to experience what it may be like to live one month in poverty, with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress. The simulation will help to bring about an awareness and understanding that results in action in the fight against poverty. During the 2 1/2-hour training, participants role-play the lives of low-income families, including single parents, people with disabilities and senior citizens on Social Security. The goal of each family is to provide for food, shelter and other basic necessities during four 15-minute "weeks."

10:00 – 12:30 St. Joseph's Catholic Church

COST: \$10 Included lunch

Register at 218-326-4420 ext. 32 or carmen@secondharvestncfb.com

FEBRUARY 20th

Effectively Living & Working in a Diverse World Join the nationally recognized motivational speaker *Jodi Pfarr* for a full day of insightful and interactive learning around the intersections of race, poverty, and class.

9:00 – 3:30 Timberlake Lodge

COST: \$35 Includes lunch and training materials.

Register at 218-999-5883 or brianaa@kootasca.org

Space in this workshop is limited. Early registration is encouraged.

FEBRUARY 21st

Big View: Jodi Pfarr: The Intersections of Race, Poverty & Class Join the nationally recognized motivational speaker *Jodi Pfarr* for an evening of insight and learning around the intersections of race, poverty, and class.

6:00 – 8:00 pm Blandin Foundation Stender Room Pizza provided

This meeting is free and open to the public. Register at 218-999-5883 or brianaa@kootasca.org

FEBRUARY 26th

Big View Film & Discussion:

American Winter- In the Richest County on Earth, Millions of Families Have Been Left Out in the Cold

Framed through the personal stories of eight families, AMERICAN WINTER reveals the devastating effects of high unemployment, underemployment, low wages, and cuts to the social safety net.

6:00 – 8:00 pm Grand Rapids Library Pizza provided

This meeting is free and open to the public. Register at 218-999-5883 or brianaa@kootasca.org

Big View Community Engagement

Hosted by Circles of Support
Tuesday, February 6th, 2018

Poverty in Itasca County

Join us for a presentation by local experts
who deliver basic needs programming:

Gail Beckman: Crisis Housing

Rob Foster: Crisis Housing

KOOTASCA Community Action

Emily Casey: Energy Assistance

KOOTASCA Community Action

Sue Estee: Food Insecurity

Second Harvest North Central Food Bank

Carrie Estey-Dix: Healthcare

Pam Dowell: Healthcare

Project Care

Dale Jokinen: Weatherization

KOOTASCA Community Action

Linda Reed: MNSure

KOOTASCA Community Action

Ron Oleheiser: Homelessness

Jessyca Bardzel: Homelessness

Grace House

Grand Rapids has the 3rd highest rate of uninsured
residents in the state with 14.3% uninsured
Minnesota Compass, December 2016

Blandin Foundation

100 N Pokegama Ave

9:00 – 2:00 PM

Lunch included

RSVP: brianaa@kootasca.org or call 999-5883

**32% OF THE 21 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING
FOOD SUPPORT (S.N.A.P.) IN THE U.S. HAD NO
CASH INCOME OF ANY KIND
USDA NOVEMBER 2017**

**10,000 PEOPLE EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS ON
ANY GIVEN NIGHT IN MINNESOTA
51% ARE YOUTH
MINNESOTA COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS**

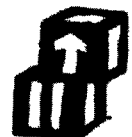
Over 6,000 people live below the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines in Itasca County
United States Census Bureau

ONE CRISIS AWAY

We are all just one crisis away from poverty.....



Circles of Support
Helping people help themselves



Circles of Support is a program of KOOTASCA Community Action

Any issue that has the potential to adversely impact people in poverty may become the subject of a Big View Community Engagement meeting. Community members from all income levels are welcome to attend and encouraged to engage in respectful dialogue around meeting topics.

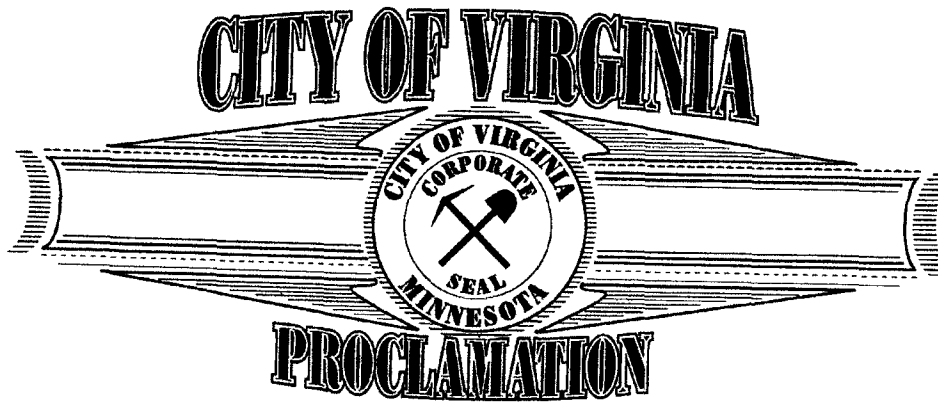
It is our position at Circles of Support to uphold the voice and dignity of the poor.

This meeting is
free and open to
the public.



Blandin Foundation™
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

Circles of Support is a program of KOOTASCA Community Action



Whereas; the Mayor, City Council, and Human Rights Commission of the City of Virginia, Minnesota have a duty to represent the best interest of all citizens of this community; and

Whereas; from time to time activities occur in our community that are not in line with and do not reflect the values in our community; and

Whereas; some literature was anonymously distributed in our community that did not represent these community values; and

Whereas; an activity of this type not only affects the random recipients of said material but, also has adverse effects on our community as a whole; and

Whereas; our community is welcoming to all; and

Whereas; our community strives to be inclusive of all races, sexes, nationalities, ethnicities, languages, religions, sexual orientations and gender identities, or any other personal characteristics; and

Whereas; our community stands together in support of love, kindness, acceptance, and truth; and

Whereas; openness and communication is key to a strong, healthy, and safe future for all citizens

Now Therefore be it Proclaimed by the Mayor, Larry Cuffe Jr., on behalf of the City Council and Human Rights Commission of the City of Virginia, Minnesota that we declare our support for and commitment to the Minnesota Human Rights Act as follows: "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."

Larry Cuffe, Jr.

Mayor, City of Virginia

January 23, 2018

