



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

DATE: DECEMBER 28, 2016

TIME: 4:00 P.M.

4:00 CALL TO ORDER:

CALL OF ROLL:

	Present	Absent
Commissioner Becky LaPlant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Jackie Dowell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Mary Jo Wimmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Frieda Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Doug Learmont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Melissa Weidendorf, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Karen Noyce, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Alice Moren	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner John 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 30, 2016 Regular Meeting

FINANCIALS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE:

ITASCA DIVERSITY ALLIANCE:

BIG VIEW UPDATE:

OLD BUSINESS: Window Clings Update
Meeting With Different Boards
Acting for Grand Rapids – Racism
Partner with organizations to bring “We are all criminals” to town

NEW BUSINESS: Tom Pagel
Partnering with GR Police – Anti-Racism

REPORTS ON CALLS AND INQUIRIES:

PENDING COMPLAINTS:

OTHER/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, November 30, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Commissioners John Schirber, Alice Moren, Jackie Dowell, Becky LaPlant, Frieda Hall, Melissa Weidendorf, Doug Learmont and Karen Noyce

Absent Mary Jo Wimmer

Visitors: None

Staff: Michele Palkki, Administrative Assistant

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

SETTING AGENDA Setting Agenda – Additions World View – Becky
Moving Meetings Along – Melissa/Jackie
New Members - John

APPROVAL OF MINUTES October 26, 2016. The following changes were made.

Page #1, Last bullet point, take off will be held at the Blandin Foundation.
Page #2, Rural Pulse, Ms. Ahcan distributed the results
Page #3, Commissioner Moren will be attending the conference
Page #4, Human Rights PLACARDS

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NOYCE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SCHIRBER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF October 26, 2016 with the changes as noted above. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

FINANCIALS

A current financial report was distributed to the Commission. The balance available is \$2,528.00. Any expenditure for 2016 need to take place no later than December 31, 2016.

CORRESPONDENCE Nothing to report

PUBLIC COMMENT No one in attendance

CIRCLE OF HEALING Commissioner LaPlant reported the following

- Next meeting will be December 15th in Ball Club
- Identified 2017 projects
- ✓ Working with AIES – American Indian Engineering Society “On Ojibwe Language” Window Clings

Circle of Healing 2017 Projects Continued

- ✓ Winter Film Fest
- ✓ Customer Service Training
- ✓ Indigenous People's Day 2017

ITASCA DIVERSITY ALLIANCE Commissioner Noyce reported the following

Action Teams have been organized under the umbrella of a Steering Committee, as well as Communications Team. The Action Teams are:

- Public Action (this includes community conversations)
- Social Events (this includes potlucks)
- Specific Activities with ICC Students of Color

The next meeting is Monday, December 5 from noon-1:30 pm at the Blandin Foundation. Meetings are the first Monday of the month, with meeting times alternating between noon-1:30 pm and 6-7:30 pm.

BIG VIEW Commissioner Moren reported the following are the next subjects.

- December 12 Topic Wellness Court will be held from 6 – 8 pm at the Grand Rapids Area Library.
- December 28 will be their annual dinner and awards presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY FOLLOW UP

Commissioner LaPlant reported there was money left over from the Northland Foundation Grant to order books for the Grand Rapids Library. Tracy Kampa has placed an order for native history books that will be kept at the Grand Rapids Area Library. There is also \$1,000.00 that can be used toward Ojibwe Signage for City owned facility, the Civic Center. A discussion was held that since there is still funding available from the 2016 Human Rights budget we could designate to give some of the funds available to add to the money for the signage at the IRA Civic Center.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SCHIRBER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NOYCE TO APPROVE UP TO \$1,500.00 FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS BUDGET FOR OJIBWE SIGNAGE AT THE IRA CIVIC CENTER. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

“During the Indigenous People's Day “Discovering the Little Brothers” storytelling event at the Grand Rapids Area Library, an original drawing was created and was gifted to the Human Rights Commission by illustrator Luke Durand. Commissioner LaPlant had the drawing framed and submitted the receipt of \$173.26 for reimbursement. The Commissioners had an initial discussion about the highest and best use of this art piece, copy of the book and the accompanying CD”

The Commission was in favor of reimbursing Commissioner LaPlant the cost of \$173.26. Commissioner LaPlant will keep the print until a space is provided to put up.

Indigenous People's Day Continued

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONERSCHIRBER TO REIMBURSE COMMISSIONER LAPLANT \$173.26 FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS BUDGET FOR THE NATIVE HISTORY ART. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Commissioner LaPlant abstained from the vote.

MEETING WITH OTHER CITY BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

A discussion was held to set up a sub-committee to discuss what the message is that we want to convey to these commissions.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NOYCE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO SET-UP A SUB-COMMITTEE INCLUDING NOYCE, LAPLANT AND HALL TO MEET AND HAVE AN OUTCOME TO DISCUSS AT THE NEXT HUMAN RIGHTS MEETING. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

HUMAN RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM

A discussion was held regarding reimbursing the registration fee for in person and virtual for this symposium. Commission Noyce will be attending in person on December 8. She will bring the receipt to the City to be reimbursed for the registration fee up to \$110.00. Commissioner LaPlant will set up the virtual symposium for those interested, location to be determined, for a fee of \$55.00, she will bring the receipt to the City for reimbursement.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SCHIRBER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LAPLANT TO REIMBURSE COMMISSIONER NOYCE THE REGISTRATION FEE UP TO \$110.00 AND ALSO MAKE PAYMENT TO MN DEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM FOR \$55.00. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

WE ARE ALL CRIMINALS

Commissioner Noyce brought up for discussion if the Commission would be interested in partnering/sponsoring with MacRostie and ICC to bring "We are all criminals" to Grand Rapids.

Commissioner Noyce reported that this would be of great value especially in the time we are in. The MacRostie has secured them for fall but no dates have been set at this time.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAPLANT, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO PARTNER/SPONSOR WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO BRING "WE ARE ALL CRIMINALS" TO GRAND RAPIDS IN THE FALL OF 2017. MORE INFORMATION TO BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS Commissioner Noyce left at 5:15 pm.

ACTing/Racism for Grand Rapids

There was a lengthy discussion regarding racism and the future impact that could reach Grand Rapids. How do we engage the community and move forward with the truth. There is a feature with the upcoming symposium that speaks about 21st Century Policing or Islamophobia in MN. Another group that is called CAIR; Counsel on American Islamic Relations.

There is a meeting on January 24 and 25, 2017, held in Bemidji, that is called Beyond Diversity. This may be something Commissioners attend.

Window Clings

Commissioners have reported that the window clings; The City of Grand Rapids Welcomes Everyone on behalf of the Human Rights Commission has gone very well. Businesses have been very open to placing a cling on their window.

Commissioner Schirber is going to contact Mayor Adams to talk about the window clings and put together a press release for the paper. Commissioner Weidendorf will contact Heidi Holtan to put something on the radio.

Commission Moren left at 5:30 pm

Moving Meetings Along

Commissioner Weidendorf would like to address the Commission regarding the length of time the past few Board Meetings have been. In addition, because everything is of importance to everyone we need to be aware of the length of time to take on items. It would also be beneficial to limit meetings to one special guest/meeting and indicate time given.

The draft agenda will be sent out to Commissioners, as in the past, the Monday prior to the meeting and have until Wednesday to have additions/deletions so the agenda can be posted and sent out to media and Commissioners.

New Commissioners

Commissioner Schirber would like the Commissioners to tell a little about themselves when new Commissioners come on board and for them to share about themselves as well. It would help to get to know each other more. A binder is given to new members & will be given to those who do not have one.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at 4:00 pm

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted, Michele Palkki, Administrative Assistant

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016**

With Comparative Totals for the Period Ending December 31, 2015

	<u>Actual</u> <u>12/31/2016</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>12/31/2015</u>
Human Rights Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,000
Brochures	-	-
Poster, Letterhead & Reprints	737	-
Supplies	102	1,734
Copy Supplies	-	52
Video/Books	50	-
Advertising	-	2,355
Dues	100	100
Postage	-	8
Seminars/Meetings/Schools	55	1,350
Speaker Expenses	1,656	250
Equipment Rental	-	3,496
Honorariums	-	100
City Staff Training	-	-
Contracted Services-Legal	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Balance Available	<u>\$ 2,300</u>	<u>\$ (6,445)</u>
Indigenous People's Day Donations		
Blandin Foundation Grant	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Affinity Plus Credit Union	-	50
Itasca Community College	-	300
Miners Inc-Cub Foods	-	100
Northland Foundation	-	1,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Other Donations		
Arrowhead Regional Arts	3,330	
Balance Available with Donations	\$ 5,630	\$ 5



CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

2017

January							February							March						
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
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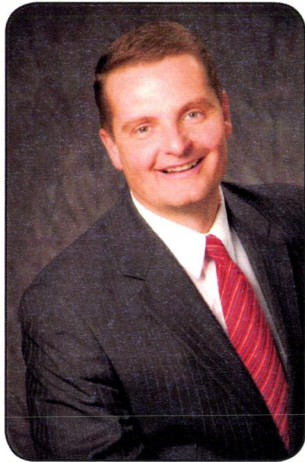
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July							August							September						
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October							November							December						
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29	30	31																		

- Golf Course Board - 7 am
- 📖 Library Board - 5 pm
- ➡ Council Worksession 4:00 pm
- 🏛️ City Council Mtg - 5 pm
- 💰 Payroll
- ☐ Holiday
- 📺 Cable TV Comm. - Noon
- 🎨 Arts & Culture Comm. - 3:45 pm
- 🏞️ Park & Rec Civic Center Board 5:30 pm
- ✈️ Airport Advisory Board - 3:00 pm
- ⚡ Public Util. Comm. - 4 pm
- 🏢 Economic Devl. Authority - 4 pm
- 👤 Fire Dept. Bus. Mtg. - 7 pm
- 🏠 Housing/Redevelopment Authority 4 pm
- 🔥 Fire Relief Assn
- 📅 Planning Comm. - 4 pm
- 👥 Human Rights Comm. - 4:00 pm
- 🏠 Flex Benefits Deadline

Pastor Doug Hardt, M.Div.



Presenter: Doug Hardt, M.Div.

Pastor of the Iron Range Seventh-day Adventist churches.

Pastor Hardt grew up in Nebraska and southern Minnesota. After he became a pastor in college he decided to go overseas and work as a missionary. He lived overseas in a predominantly Muslim part of the world for eight years working for the SDA church. Because of his experience of being a Christian in the Muslim world he ended up studying Islam and the Quran in-depth. He ended up writing a book about the religion entitled "Who Was Muhammad?" Before moving to Grand Rapids he was serving as the director for the Interfaith Studies and Culture Center at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska.

What is Islam?

A CLASS PRESENTED BY
PASTOR DOUG HARDT, M.DIV



GRAND RAPIDS YMCA CLASSROOM

EVERY MONDAY EVENING

JANUARY 23 – FEBRUARY 27, 2017

6:30 P.M.

**How much do you know about Islam –
the second largest religion in the world today?**

**Since 9/11 Islamic terrorists have received much
media attention, but how much do you know
about the actual religion?**

How much do you know about it's 1400 year history?

How much do you know about the life of Muhammad?

How much do you know about the teachings of the Quran?

Do you know the difference between a Shi'a and a Sunni?

What area of the world has the most Muslims?



If those questions interest you then this class is for you. Pastor Doug Hardt has shortened his class on Islam that he taught at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska into 6 one-hour presentations. Don't miss this informative class that will help you understand the current situation in the world between the West and Islam.

*Topics that will be
covered in the seminar:*

- **The history of Muhammad**
- **A summary of the teachings of the Quran**
- **The history of the Sunni/Shi'a divide**
- **History of Islam with the West**
- **History of Islamic terrorism**
- **Analysis of the current condition of Islam now**

HRC Chat with other GR Boards and Commissions - Draft

Purpose: To inform other arms of Grand Rapids city government of the reasons for, functions of, and importance of the Human Rights Commission.

Outcome: All appointees to city commissions and boards will gain awareness of the role of the Human Rights Commission and how they can support and promote human rights.

Method: Rotating two-member teams of HR Commissioners to meet with 13 other city commissions and boards over several months.

Setup: Start by thanking the group for the work they do in support of the community, and for their time. If chair doesn't ask people to introduce themselves, start your presentation with introductions.

Leave behinds:

Content:

History: How many have heard of the human rights commission? The Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission was created by a city ordinance in 2004, to aid and advise the City Council in ensuring that all citizens have equal opportunity in those areas protected by law. The mission of the Commission is to promote a community of harmony and respect for the rights and dignity of all people.

Areas covered: The role of the Human Rights Commission is to encourage and promote equal opportunity and fair treatment and practices for all people. The Minnesota Human Rights Act (Minnesota Statutes 1967, Human Rights Act, Section 363.13) prohibits discrimination in education, employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, and credit services.

It is illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, status with regard to public assistance, disability, and age.

Two primary agencies support human rights commissions in Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Human Rights, which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2013, has the mandate to hear discrimination cases filed with the state. The Governor appoints the Human Rights Commissioner. The Commissioner since 2011 is Kevin Lindsey. Information on the Minnesota Department of Human Rights may be found at: <https://mn.gov/mdhr/>

In addition, the League of Human Rights Commissions, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and advancement of human rights, was founded in 1971 to support the work of local human rights commissions.

Work of the HRC: Human rights commissions enhance economic development efforts in the community and educate citizens about social justice concerns. They work with labor, education, civic, religious, social service, and community groups to foster understanding and to eliminate prejudice and discrimination. In order to grow, cities must be open to change, and human rights commissions help foster this climate for change. The HRC also assists the city with regard to compliance with state human rights statutes.

Other facts about the HRC: The Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission operates on a budget of \$1,000 - \$3,000 per year. These funds are used for print items, special events, workshop costs, or other expenses to promote the work of the volunteer commission.

The Grand Rapids HRC has worked and collaborated with several community groups to promote and advance human rights in the city, including Itasca Community College, the MacRostie Art Center, the Circle of Healing, the Grand Rapids Area Library, District 318 schools, area churches, the Chamber of Commerce, and other departments of the City of Grand Rapids.

Workshops, presentations and events include information and education about disability/accessibility issues, on-going support of the City's Indigenous People's Day and workshops about city relations with the indigenous community, Tracks in the Snow about the Minnesota Muslim Community, presentations from the Minnesota Hmong Community, the marriage amendment and other gay rights issues, homelessness and housing concerns, and ethics workshops, among others.

Visible contributions of the Human Rights Commission include Ojibwe language signage and window clings stating "The City of Grand Rapids Welcomes Everyone."