



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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2015

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, Chair         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner Doug Learmont              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner Barb Sanderson, Vice Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner Karen Noyce                | <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.

PRESENTATION:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:           October 28, 2015 Regular Meeting  
  No November Meeting

FINANCIALS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE:

DIVERSITY UPDATE:

BIG VIEW UPDATE:

OLD BUSINESS:                         Tracks in the Snow – Committee Report  
  Islam Phobia Article

NEW BUSINESS:

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 of City Hall, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

**CALL OF ROLL:** On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Commissioners Alice Moren, Frieda Hall, Jackie Dowell, John Schirber, Becky LaPlant, Barb Sanderson, Karen Noyce, Doug Learmont and Mary Jo Wimmer

Staff: Michele Palkki, Administrative Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by chair Hall.

**SETTING AGENDA** Additions: Nothing to add

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** September 30, 2015 Regular Meeting.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SCHIRBER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.**

**Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

### **FINANCIALS**

There is still money from grants and donations, as well as expenditures, coming in for the Indigenous People's Day Celebration scheduled for Monday, October 12, 2015.

Commissioner Sanderson reported she would meet with the Finance Director to see where everything is at regarding Indigenous People's Day Celebration.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nothing to report

### **CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE**

Why Treaties Matter will be on display at the MacRostie from Tuesday, November 3 for 3 weeks. Frank Bibeau will be at MacRostie on November 10<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8 pm.

4:20 pm Mary Jo Arrived

Commissioner LaPlant distributed the minutes from the last meeting of October 8<sup>th</sup>. The next Circle Meeting is set for November 13<sup>th</sup> at the YMCA.

### **BIG VIEW EVENTS**

Commissioner Wimmer reported that there are two Big View Events coming to the community. Private Violence: Wednesday, November 4, 2015; 11 – 1:00 pm at the Library; Hunger: Monday, November 9, 2015 from 6 – 8:00 pm at the Library.

### **ANISHINAABE WORLDVIEW TRAINING**

Commissioner LaPlant reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the training has begun; representatives are covered from the Police Department, District #318, Circle of Healing, Northland Counseling, Itasca County, County Health and Human Services, Lorre Miltich.

There are openings for the upcoming training sessions for January, February, March and April. Contact Commissioner LaPlant for more information.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY**

This event went great. Even with the unpleasant weather there were hundreds of individuals from kids on up.

The thank you cards, thanks to Mrs. Schirber for her donation of the cards, have been sent out to various individuals and businesses. If there is someone that you worked with in particular please take a moment and thank them. Commissioner Schirber will be sure to thank Range Water for their donation.

There are some invoices that have not come through the City yet; including Briers for the blankets-\$850.00; Honorariums' - \$100.00, meal from School District #318 - \$825.00. Commissioner Sanderson reported that she would make time to meet with the Finance Department regarding the Revenue/Expenditures for this event. Commissioner LaPlant reported she would work on the report for the Northland Grant that is due by December 31, 2015. A huge thank you to everyone that made this event such a great success.

#### **TRACKS IN THE SNOW**

Commissioner Learmont reported an update for the Tracks in the Snow exhibit and distributed notes from their last meeting. The Committee has been working on the details regarding the cost, physical layout of the exhibit, the theme, opening speaker, and the number of presenter's.



Tracks Continued:

A discussion was held regarding the amount, if any, the Human Rights Commission would support out of their 2016 budget. The Library has put aside \$400.00 for the project.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NOYCE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DOWELL TO APPROVE UP TO \$1,000.00 OUT OF THE 2016 HUMANA RIGHTS COMMISSION BUDGET. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

### **DIVERSITY TOPIC**

An update was given regarding the diversity focus. A focus group of individuals, from the community, are meeting to identify issues and what direction to take. The focus group is trying to set up a sustainable movement that is part of the community.

This meeting is not a Commission and therefore everyone who is interested in this topic is invited to attend and brainstorm this topic. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 2 at 4:00 pm in Conference Room 2B.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2016 PROPOSED BUDGET**

A discussion was held regarding the proposed budget for 2016. It was stated that this is only a proposed budget and the final budget will be approved at the December 14, 2016. The proposed budget for the Human Rights Commission is \$5,000.00

#### **BIG VIEW**

Commissioner Moren distributed two items coming up in November both held at the Grand Rapids Public Library. November 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 until 1:00 pm is "Private Violence"; November 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 until 8:00 pm is "Hunger".

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for November 25, 2015.

Respectfully submitted, Michele Palkki, Administrative Assistant

# **Draft Agenda for Tracks in the Snow Exhibit and Presentations**

(12/30/2015 updated draft)

## **January 16, 2016**

2:00 PM Exhibit set-up at Grand Rapids Area Library (IRG, library staff, HRC volunteers)

## **January 19, 2016**

9:00 AM Exhibition soft opening at Grand Rapids Area Library (no activities)

## **January 21, 2016**

4:30 PM Formal welcome, sponsor acknowledgments, introductions by Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission

Welcome by Grand Rapids Area Library

Islamic Resource Group: introduction to and explanation of the exhibit by Mr Rashed Ferdous during walking tour

6:00 - Presentation by Mr Rashed Ferdous, Islamic Resource Group, at the Grand  
7:30 PM Rapids Area Library: Minnesota Muslims Up Close, opportunity for questions  
and answers following presentation

## **February 3, 2016:**

2:00 - Presentation at Itasca Community College: Mr Rashed Ferdous, Islamic  
Resource

3:30 PM Group: What You Always Wanted to Know About Islam and Muslims,  
followed by questions and answers on current topics of interest

6:00 - Presentation at the Grand Rapids Area Library: Mr Rashed Ferdous, Islamic  
7:30 PM Resource Group: What you Always Wanted to Know About Islam and Muslims,  
opportunity for questions and answers including current topics to follow  
the presentation

## **February 5 or 6, 2016**

Exhibit closes, take-down and packing



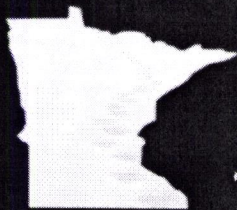
Exhibit on display  
January 19<sup>th</sup> - February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Grand Rapids Area Library

Opening Reception  
Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 4:30 pm  
Presentation: Rashed Ferdous,  
Islamic Resource Group:  
*Minnesota Muslims Up Close* 6:00 pm  
Grand Rapids Area Library

Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016  
Presentation: Rashed Ferdous,  
Islamic Resource Group:  
*What You Always Wanted to Know  
About Islam & Muslims*  
2:00 Itasca Community College  
6:00 Grand Rapids Area Library



# TRACKS



# IN THE SNOW

*The Minnesota Muslim Experience since 1880*

*Tracks in the Snow* provides a glimpse into the lives of one of the least known and rapidly expanding populations in America and in Minnesota – the Muslim community.

The stories of 25 individuals featured in these portraits encapsulates the variety of backgrounds and experiences that have led so many Muslims to make Minnesota their home for more than a century.

*Tracks in the Snow* is made possible through a collaboration with the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission, the Grand Rapids Area Library, and Itasca Community College.

The *Tracks in the Snow* exhibit & activities are free and open to the public.

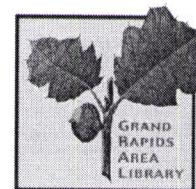
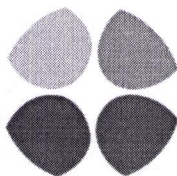
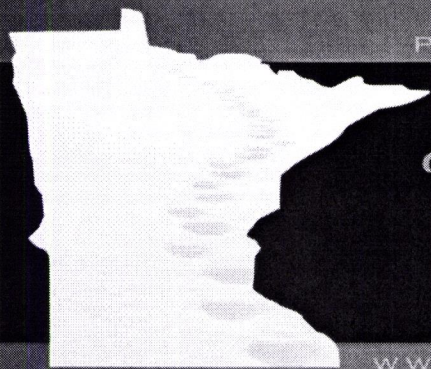




PHOTO & ORAL HISTORY EXHIBIT



# Tracks in the Snow

The Minnesota Muslim Experience  
since 1880

WWW.IRGMN.ORG/MUSLIMEXPERIENCE

**January 19<sup>th</sup> – February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

*Tracks in the Snow* provides a glimpse into the lives of one of the least known and rapidly expanding populations in America and in Minnesota – the Muslim community.

Exhibit on display

**January 19<sup>th</sup> - February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Grand Rapids Area Library

Opening Reception

**Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 4:30 pm**

Presentation: Rashed Ferdous,  
Islamic Resource Group:

***Minnesota Muslims Up Close* 6:00 pm**

Grand Rapids Area Library

**Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

Presentation: Rashed Ferdous,  
Islamic Resource Group:

***What You Always Wanted to Know  
About Islam & Muslims***

**2:00** Itasca Community College

**6:00** Grand Rapids Area Library

Take a walk in the footsteps figuratively referenced in the title of this show by the Islamic Resource Group.

The stories of 25 individuals featured in these portraits encapsulates the variety of backgrounds and experiences that have led so many Muslims to make Minnesota their home for more than a century.

Join us to gain a deeper insight into the true lives of Minnesota Muslims.

*Tracks in the Snow* is made possible through a collaboration with the

Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission, the Grand Rapids Area Library, and Itasca Community College.

*The Tracks in the Snow exhibit & activities are free and open to the public.*

