



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

DATE: APRIL 30, 2014

TIME: 4:00 P.M.

4:00 CALL TO ORDER:

CALL OF ROLL:

	Present	Absent
Commissioner LaPlant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Dowell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Freeman, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Hall, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Learmont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Nichols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Sanderson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Weidendorf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Noyce	<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: March 26, 2014 regular meeting

FINANCIALS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Human Rights Brochure

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 2A of City Hall, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Commissioners: Nichols, Sanderson, Learmont, Weidendorf, Noyce, LaPlant and Hall. Absent: Commissioners Freeman and Dowell.

Staff Present: Kimberly Johnson-Gibeau

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

ADDITIONS:

1. Brochure update
2. Website/Communication
3. Tracks in the Snow

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 26, 2014 meeting

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAPLANT, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2013 AS PRESENTED. Motion passed unanimously.

CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE:

Letter of support for Why Treaties Matter exhibit is presented and signed. Grants have been received to support the exhibit and others are in process. Minnesota Humanities Center is hosting a professional development program for key educators on May 16th & 17th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Homelessness Exhibit: News release is circulated for review. Speaker on March 27th at MacRostie is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Columbus Day: This issue was presented to the City Council at a Policy and Ordinance Review meeting. Administration will review with City Attorney. Recommendation is to prepare a proclamation in support of Native American Friends.

NEW BUSINESS:

ICC Collaboration:

Melissa Weidendorf presented request from Kendra LeClair, seeking co-sponsorship for Stomp On Stigma program. Discussed options for sponsorship and asked for more information to be provided. Encourage Ms. LeClair to seek other sources of support.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAPLANT, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON TO DONATE UP TO \$300 TO FISCAL AGENT, CMH, CONTINGENT UPON OTHER FUNDING AND DETAILED PLAN SUBMISSION FOR STOMP ON STIGMA. Motion passed unanimously.

Citizen request for assistance – law enforcement records:

Discussed request from local resident for assistance in obtaining records believed to be in the possession of the Grand Rapids Police Department. The Human Rights Commission has no authority in this matter.

Brochure update:

Barb Sanderson would like to move forward with ordering updated brochures. Information is collected and Barb will get information on printer.

Website/Communication:

Staff will get information regarding the activity on the Human Rights page of the City website. Discussed need for updating information, article, etc.

Tracks in the Snow:

Discussed possibility of sponsoring Tracks in the Snow exhibit at the MacRostie in 2015. Will continue to seek information and bring back to Commission at a later date.

Other:

- As a follow up to the invitation by the Police Department to participate in the Citizen's Academy, Jackie Dowell has agreed to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Johnson-Gibeau, City Clerk



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

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

420 NORTH POKEGAMA AVENUE, GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA 55744-2662

April 30, 2014

City of Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission
420 North Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2662

Dear Commissioners,

I received a phone call this morning from Sarah Verke regarding concerns she has about the Independent School District 318's iPad initiative. Her primary concern is for the safety and rights of students and educators. Specifically, she feels there is a lack of health and safety for the children and the School District is not communicating with parents regarding the iPad initiative.

She indicated that she is aware of the School District holding very small meetings, but there has never been a community meeting regarding the initiative. She stated a few specific concerns consisting of radiation exposure from the wireless devices (Class B carcinogens) as well as screen time, addictive behavior, and non-recyclable materials being used.

Mrs. Verke indicated that she has had a telephone conversation with Rochelle VanDenHeuvel, Curriculum Director, as well as Jessica Setness, Communications Specialist, regarding this issue. Based on her conversations, she has drafted a letter to the Superintendent of School District 318, but has not yet sent it.

Mr. and Mrs. Verke have two children, one of which will be in fifth grade next year, which happens to be the class where the initial rollout will take place. They have strongly considered home schooling their children to protect them.

At this time, I believe they are looking for support for their concerns and thought it would be worth looking into what the Human Rights Commission could possibly do to assist. I indicated to Mrs. Verke that I would convey the information she provided to me to the Commission at today's meeting for your consideration.

The contact number for Sarah Verke is 218.259.9735 if you wish to pursue a dialogue with her. In the meantime, I will be in contact with Jessica Setness regarding her conversation with the Superintendent as to a communications plan that may be in progress.

Thank you for your time.

Lynn DeGrio
Human Resources Director