



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

DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 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: January 29, 2014 regular meeting

FINANCIALS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE:

- "Why Treaties Matter Exhibit"

OLD BUSINESS:

- March Homeless Exhibit – Update

NEW BUSINESS:

- Itasca County's response to the Red Wing article regarding Columbus Day change
- Grand Rapids Police Department - Citizen's Academy

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, January 29, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Lynn DeGrio, Kimberly Johnson-Gibeau

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

**ADDITIONS:**

1. Received complaint
2. 2014 Diversity Holiday Calendar

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **January 8, 2014 meeting**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 27, 2013 AS PRESENTED. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**FINANCIALS:**

Review of current financials and invoice submitted by Brewed Awakenings for refreshments on January 28, 2014 for Human Rights sponsored event.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NOYCE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NICHOLS TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF INVOICE FROM BREWED AWAKENINGS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$182.84. The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE:**

Commissioner Sanderson reports that the exhibit for "Why Treaties Matter" is moving forward.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Bukata Hayes:** Mr. Hayes was a dynamic speaker and was enjoyed by all though attendance was low. Commissioner Dowell notes that in the future, disposable coffee containers should be utilized so the Commission can retain the unused coffee and perhaps distribute instead of returning purchased coffee to vendor.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO PURCHASE TWO COPIES OF ICTV VIDEO PRESENTATION ON BUKATA HAYES. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Homelessness exhibit:** There are three events scheduled for March to highlight homelessness issues. March 7<sup>th</sup> is First Friday event and Commission will donate \$150 to MacRostie for participation in the exhibit; March 13<sup>th</sup> there will be an open house including dinner at the Grace House and March 27<sup>th</sup>, Cathy Ten brooke, State Director for Preventing Homelessness, will speak at MacRostie. Commission will provide refreshment, left over from Bukata Hayes event, for March 27<sup>th</sup> engagement.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DOWELL TO DONATE \$150 TO MACROSTIE ART CENTER FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE MARCH 2014 HOMELESSNESS EXHIBIT. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter of support and funding for Why Treaties Matter:

This will be addressed at the February meeting.

2014 Diversity Holiday Calendar:

Ms. DeGrio distributes calendar for Commission review.

Received complaint:

Commissioners Hall and Noyce both received a complaint from area residents regarding an incident with their African American son and an Officer with the Grand Rapids Police Department. The complaint was read and discussed. Commission believes this issue should be referred to the Police Chief and also to the State Department. Ms. DeGrio, Human Resources Director, will follow up on complaint with proper authorities.

Other: There is a presentation scheduled for Monday, February 3, 2014 at ICC in Davies Hall from 6:30 – 8:00 PM, addressing Safe School-Bullying Issues.

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

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Johnson-Gibeau, City Clerk

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 10 , 2014**

*With Comparative Totals for the Period Ending December 31, 2013*

	<u>Actual 2/10/2014</u>	<u>Actual 12/31/2013</u>
<b>Human Rights Budgeted Expenditures</b>	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Brochures	-	-
Poster, Letterhead & Reprints	-	-
Supplies	-	-
Copy Supplies	-	37
Video/Books	-	513
Advertising	-	-
Dues	100	100
Postage	-	9
Seminars/Meetings/Schools	349	237
Speaker Expenses	-	-
Healing Journey Deficit	-	632
Flag Installation Placques	-	500
City Staff Training	-	-
Contracted Services-Legal	-	228
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Balance Available	<u>\$ 2,551</u>	<u>\$ 744</u>

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**Healing Journey Sponsorships** \$ 2,150

<b>Healing Journey Expenditures</b>	
Amazon-Kind Hearted Woman	34
Brewed Awakenings	248
Robin Poor Bear	2,500
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>2,782</u>

Surplus/Deficit (632)



## Red Wing considers rededicating Columbus Day

Article by: Pam Louwagie  
Star Tribune  
February 5, 2014 - 9:24 PM

The city of Red Wing may soon bid bon voyage to Columbus Day.

At the urging of the city's Human Rights Commission, Red Wing City Council members are exploring the idea of rededicating the October holiday to something that honors the area's early settlers instead of a man some historians consider less than worthy of celebration.

The commission argues that Columbus Day is ripe for change because much of what has been taught about Columbus isn't true — he did not discover what is now the United States, and he was cruel to the people he encountered after setting sail in 1492.

Some City Council members met for a workshop this week to discuss renaming the holiday to First Peoples' Day. Reaction among council members was mostly favorable, officials said, though it will need a full City Council vote to be passed. Council members also want input from the local Prairie Island Indian community before voting.

A person not to celebrate

"It's just more and more obvious that [Columbus] is not a person that we ought to be celebrating," said Scott Bender, a Human Rights Commission member who started the push for change. While a few states such as South Dakota have changed the holiday name, Bender said he believes Red Wing would be a leader among cities in Minnesota, and he hopes others would follow.

Bender, who teaches eighth-grade social studies, said he has been studying Columbus — including reading some of his writings — for more than 20 years. Textbooks do a poor job of telling what happened, he said.

Columbus landed in the Caribbean Islands and enslaved the indigenous people to mine for gold, according to the commission's website, and Columbus was later imprisoned by his own king. Also, Norse explorers were in North America for several centuries before that.

City Council President Lisa Bayley said Red Wing has its own rich history to celebrate.

"We are named after Chief Red Wing," she said. "We have this very thriving Indian community within our borders."

Prairie Island tribal leaders said they hadn't seen the proposed resolution and couldn't comment specifically on it. "The Mdewakanton Dakota have lived on Prairie Island and in the Red Wing area for countless generations, and the Tribal Council appreciates any effort to recognize and honor the unique cultural and historical connection of the Mdewakanton Dakota to the Red Wing area," the tribal council wrote in a statement.

Bayley said she's heard mostly positive feedback about the possible change but said one citizen worried that it would be confusing if the local and national names for the holiday were different.

"At first blush, it seemed almost laughably politically correct," Bayley acknowledged. "But we've tasked our Human Rights Commission with identifying and addressing inequality in the community and educating our community about discrimination and about human rights."

Changes elsewhere

Columbus Day has taken a beating over time. In 1988, Hawaii changed the name to Discoverers' Day. South Dakota then changed it to Native American Day. Though the holiday is a federal one, other states have passed laws removing Columbus Day from their list of approved holidays. Many others don't observe it. The day is not listed on the Minnesota state holiday schedule.

It is not a city holiday for most employees in Red Wing, either, Bayley said. So the name change there would be largely symbolic.

"But symbols are potent," she said. "They're important reminders of how a community views its citizens."

Pam Louwagie • 612-673-7102



Columbus  
Feed Loader.

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