



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

DATE: NOVEMBER 27, 2013

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: October 30, 2013 regular meeting

FINANCIALS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Discuss meeting dates for December 2013 and calendar year 2014

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bukata Hayes ~ Speaking Engagement for January 2014

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 30, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Lynn DeGrio, Tom Pagel, Kimberly Johnson-Gibeau

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

Additions:

- Diversity Committee at ICC
- 515 Theatre update
- Discuss Ojibwe Flag for City

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **October 2, 2013 meeting**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WEIDENDORF, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2, 2013 AS PRESENTED. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

FINANCIALS: Noted current balance available.

CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE: Commissioner LaPlant discusses flag installation, including outstanding costs. Not all invoices have been received. A possible donation will be considered at a later meeting. Also noted is the "Why Treaties Matter" exhibit. There is a possibility of having the exhibit in Grand Rapids as part of a tour or perhaps having a permanent home in the community. ICC is hosting The Great Hurt training in November. Sponsorship would be appreciated.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NOYCE TO PARTICIPATE AS CO-SPONSOR FOR "THE GREAT HURT" TRAINING AT ICC IN NOVEMBER 2013. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

515 THEATRE UPDATE: Although this event was initially planned for October, there has clearly been a delay. Commissioner Sanderson will keep the Commission posted as more information is available.

NEW BUSINESS:

OJIBWE FLAG DISCUSSION: City Administrator Pagel is present and wishes to discuss the possibility of having a flag installed at the City, keeping in line with steps taken by the County and Chamber, presenting a welcoming community. Mr. Pagel believes that education of City staff and community members is key. There must be genuine desire to make a difference and not just an attempt to "join" the crowd. This will be brought to the City Council for consideration at the next Policy & Ordinance Review Committee. There could be more effort to integrate students from ICC, as there is a greater diversity

there, with the community, retailers, law enforcement. Mr. Pagel suggests that the Commission reach out to Police Chief Jim Denny to encourage his involvement in the Diversity Committee at ICC. The Citizens Academy with the Grand Rapids PD is open to the public and a special session could be discussed with the department for the students.

DIVERSITY IN RURAL SCHOOLS: Commissioner Hall discusses past practice and how this is a service for raising awareness in students. Help from the Commission, suggestions for speakers, activities, etc. would be greatly appreciated.

COLUMBUS DAY:

Commissioner Weidendorf questions the installation of the Ojibwe flag and closely followed by the practice of government buildings/offices closing for Columbus Day. Also discussed were paid traditional Christian holidays, and the need to use vacation time for holidays celebrated by various other religions. In regard to City employees, time off and holidays are often negotiate in union contracts. Commissioner Sanderson requests this issue to be brought up at the next round of contract negotiations.

I HAVE A DREAM VIDEO COMPETITION:

This was received late and doesn't leave much time as the due date is November 15th. Commission will hold and consider for next year.

2013 HUMAN RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM: Commissioner LaPlant volunteers to attend.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON TO AUTHORIZE LODGING, MILEAGE, MEALS AND REGISTRATION EXPENSES FOR COMMISSION BECKY LAPLANT TO ATTEND THE 2013 HUMAN RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Reports on calls & inquiries: None

Pending Complaints: None

Other:

- Discussed accessibility brochures and the need to distribute throughout the community.
- Discussed schedule meeting for November & December. No change to schedule date in November. Meeting for December and 2014 will be reviewed next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Johnson-Gibeau, City Clerk