



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

DATE: JUNE 26, 2013

TIME: 4:00 P.M.

ACTION

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: Open Meeting Law – Attorney Chad Sterle

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 29, 2013 regular meeting

FINANCIALS

CORRESPONDENCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Robin Poor Bear Presentation
- Ojibwe Flag Installation

NEW BUSINESS:

- Plan Law Enforcement Day

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, May 29, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Lynn DeGrio, Kimberly Johnson-Gibeau

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA: Changes to agenda:

- Law Enforcement Training-Ad under work plan update
- Postpone Open Meeting Law training

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 24, 2013 regular meeting

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER WEIDENDORF TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2013 AS PRESENTED. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Work plan update:

Discusses past training sessions for law enforcement and scheduling another training to be conducted by law enforcement/for law enforcement regarding human rights. Next Agenda Item: Plan Law Enforcement Day

Discuss mileage costs for HR attendance at various events out of area:

Discussed current mileage policy for Board & Commission members attending events/conferences for Human Rights out of area. Members are advised of necessary documentation to accompany mileage reimbursement requests. Admin staff will process when submitted.

Review Violence Prevention Program Conference – Surviving Abuse:

Discussed presentation by Robin Poor Bear. Ms. Poor Bear is willing to come to Grand Rapids for a speaking engagement if the Commission would like to pursue as an event. Commissioner Weidendorf will check on possible venues and Commissioner Sanderson will talk with Ms. Poor Bear regarding scheduling.

Circle of Healing update:

Moving forward with flag flown at Courthouse and Depot buildings. Seeking to use part of the depot building as an Ojibwa Center.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Johnson-Gibeau, City Clerk



Blandin Foundation™
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

June 18, 2013

District 1 Representative Robbie Howe
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
115 Sixth Street NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Dear Representative Howe,

For the past several months, Leech Lake Tribal Court Judge Korey Wahwassuck has served as a liaison between Chairwoman Carri Jones and the *Circle of Healing*, a group of area residents working to find new ways to build relationships between Ojibwe and non-native people of our area. Please see the attached fact sheet for more information about the group. The Blandin Foundation supports, and several staff members including myself participate in this group. Because Judge Wahwassuck is transitioning to Itasca County, I have been asked to be Chairwoman Jones' liaison, which I am happy to do.

On Thursday, September 12, 2013 from 10:00 am to noon, we are planning to install the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe flag at two locations in Grand Rapids – in front the Itasca County Courthouse and Grand Rapids Depot Commons.

A previous flag installation was made in February, 2008 when a joint powers agreement was signed between the Leech Lake Tribal Court and the District Court of the 9th Judicial District (Itasca County). At that time the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe flag was installed as a "Legacy of Hope" inside the Itasca County Courthouse. We want to build upon this Legacy of Hope.

Our vision is that Grand Rapids is experienced as a welcoming place for Ojibwe people of all ages to live, visit, attend school, work and shop. Installing these flags is a visible sign within the community, and a next step in building bridges from our shared past to our shared future.

We are planning to involve young people along with Ojibwe and non-native people. In addition to the flag installations, there will be drum circles, traditional food and other activities.

We hope you can attend this ceremony and celebration, and request you contact Circle of Healing member Jim Woehrle, at 218-999-0801 or jimw@kootasca.org if you have any questions, or would like to be directly involved with planning for this event.

We would ask that this invitation be extended to the eight local Indian Councils in your district. Circle of Healing representatives will gladly meet with any interested Local Indian Councils during the month of July to discuss the project and ensure that their suggestions help guide this ground-breaking project. I anticipate meeting with the Tribal Council in the near future to talk more about this event, and to request your input and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Annette, MD

On behalf of the Circle of Healing



Circle of Healing

The Circle of Healing began meeting in August 2011, the result of attending *Why We Are Who We Are: Confronting the Past to Move Forward*, sponsored by White Earth Tribal and Community College. Group members have a shared desire to address the issue of Native American Historical Trauma, and resonate with the words of Lila Watson, Australian Aborigine:

"If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."

The group is open and meets monthly for shared learning and to build the cross cultural relationships and connections that lead the way to action. To date the group has focused its energy in two areas – building awareness about historical trauma in the dominant culture, and connecting Ojibwe kids to their culture.

2012 Activities

- Presented two breakout sessions on historical trauma at the IASC Multi District Day
- Co-hosted, along with Circles of Support, Anton Treuer at Davies Theaters
- Organized a three-day cultural canoe trip for high school students from the Bug O Nay Ge Shig, Deer River and Northern Lights schools
- Paved the way for a federal grant awarded to the MN Dept of Corrections to bring cultural awareness training to the probation end of law enforcement.
- Traveled to St. Paul to attend Healing the Hurt Reader's Theater

Projects identified for 2013/2014

- A more welcoming Grand Rapids – includes the LLBO flag installation at Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Depot Commons building and outside the Itasca County Courthouse, Ojibwe signage at local businesses and a Welcome Center
- Bring the "Why Treaties Matter" exhibit to the Itasca Area

- Supporting the revitalization of the Ojibwe language – specific activities to be identified
- Advocacy for the Bug O Nay Ge Shig School – specific activities to be identified

Circle members

- Alice Moren – Manager Circles of Support and PCs for People
- Barb Sanderson – Grand Rapids City Council; Grand Rapids Human Rights Commissioner
- Becky LaPlant – Blandin Foundation; Grand Rapids Human Rights Commissioner
- Christina Bowstring – Parent; student LLTC
- Cynthia Johnson – Superintendent Bug O Nay Ge Shig School
- Darlene Freeman - Dir. of Upward Bound and Ed. Talent Search Itasca Community College; Grand Rapids Human Rights Commissioner
- Gerald White – Educator Deer River High School; Board Member Bug O Nay Ge Shig School
- Harold Annette - Multicultural Student Affairs Itasca Community College
- Jaci David – Blandin Foundation
- Jim Woehrlé – Executive Director, Koostasca Community Action
- Karen Noyce – Wildlife Biologist; Grand Rapids Human Rights Commissioner
- Kasey Dunnell – Indian Education, ISD 318
- Kathleen Blake – Community Organizer
- Kathy Annette – Blandin Foundation
- Corey Wahwassuck – Leech Lake Tribal Judge
- Leah Monroe – Indian Education, ISD 118
- Patsy Bernhjelm – Business owner; community member Outing MN
- Sonja Merrild – Blandin Foundation
- Therese Nett – North Homes Children and Family Services
- Valerie Shangreaux – Blandin Foundation
- Vic Moen – Grand Rapids District Supervisor, Dept of Corrections

For more information

Becky LaPlant, Blandin Foundation
218-237-8764 or blaplant@blandinfoundation.org



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