

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

DATE: JULY 27, 2011

TIME: 4:00 P.M.

Est. Times

ACTION

4:00 CALL TO ORDER:

CALL OF ROLL:

	Present	Absent
Commissioner Wartchow, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Dowell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Freeman, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Hain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Learmont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Mundt, Sec'y. /Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Sanderson	<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 by a majority vote of the Councilmembers present an agenda item.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 29, 2011 regular meeting

FINANCIALS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Rapids Read and Commission follow-up program
- Accessibility Project Discussion
- Human Rights Commission Website Update
- Brochure/Poster Review
- Historical Trauma update on Meeting at Blandin Foundation

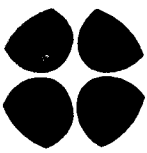
NEW BUSINESS:

REPORTS ON CALLS AND INQUIRIES:

PENDING COMPLAINTS:

OTHER:

ADJOURNMENT:



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**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CONFERENCE ROOM 2B – 420 NORTH POKEGAMA AVENUE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2011 – 4:00 P.M.**

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, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Wednesday, June 29, 2011, at 4:00 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Commission Chair Wartchow, Commissioners: Dowell, Hall, Learmont, Mundt (arrived 4:17 p.m.) and Sanderson. Absent: Commissioners: Freeman and Hain.

Staff: Lynn DeGrio, Human Resources Director

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LEARMONT, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO ADD TWO ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS TO OLD BUSINESS: 1) CONTINUE ACCESSIBILITY DISCUSSION AND 2) UPDATE ON WEBSITE. IN ADDITION, UNDER NEW BUSINESS ADD: MINNESOTA LEAGUE DIRECTOR NOMINATION. The following voted in favor thereof: Learmont, Hall, Wartchow, Dowell and Sanderson. Opposed: None, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 25, 2011 regular meeting

The following corrections were made to the Minutes regarding the corrections made to the April 27, 2011 Minutes:

- Under “Rapids Read and Commission follow-up program update” number one should have read: Farmer’s Market won’t allow participants “beyond” 50 miles instead of “within” 50 miles.
- Instead of “On all motions, Commissioner Hain should be replaced with Commissioner Hall,” the correction to the Minutes should read: “On all motions, the name of Commissioner Hain should be replaced with the name of Commissioner Hall.”

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DOWELL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 25, 2011 AS CORRECTED ABOVE. The following voted in favor thereof: Sanderson, Dowell, Hall, Wartchow and Learmont.

Opposed: None, motion carried.

FINANCIALS:

Human Resources Director distributed a copy of the Schedule of Changes in Revenue and Expenditures for the Period Ending May 31, 2011. The report was for their information in addition to being updated on the Blandin Foundation Grant figures.

CORRESPONDENCE: No new correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Accessibility Project:

Chair Wartchow stated they did get the extension on the grant for the Accessibility Project. Human Resources Director DeGrio stated she received only two responses after the letter went out.

Awareness is the main message. Commissioners discussed the following ideas for the next follow-up letter:

- To encourage follow through, use the State's project on Pokegama Avenue sidewalks as an example of sidewalks becoming more accessible.
- In the letter, note there's still time to become compliant before winter.
- Enclose copy of accessibility laws as a reminder.
- Enclose picture of businesses who have done things right; examples parking lot at Grace House, handicap accessibility doors, etc.

The Commissioners would like to follow up this discussion at the next regularly scheduled Human Rights Commission meeting.

Follow-up request from Commissioner Mundt:

Commissioner Mundt's intent in writing was to keep this topic on the radar. Commissioner Sanderson will email the Minnesota Human Rights Commission as to what this Commission can do legally.

Rapids Read and Commission Follow-up Program:

Commission Chair Wartchow visited the Hmong Cultural Center, Inc. in the twin cities. The Hmong musicians are willing to come up with a \$100 donation to the Hmong Cultural Center plus expenses. August is a busy time for the artist and the artist would need \$500 plus expenses. The Hmong dancers are unable to come.

The Commissioners made the following motion:

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON, SECOND BY
COMMISSIONER LEARMONT TO AUTHORIZE EXPENSES**

NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000 TOWARD THIS EVENT AND AUTHORIZE CHAIR WARTCHOW TO BRING HMONG ARTISTS/MUSICIANS TO GRAND RAPIDS.

During the discussion the Commissioners expressed the following:

- Expand the follow-up with other ties, for example, Essar Steel.
- Should this event stand alone or with another event, such as the County Fair?
- Chair Wartchow will make contacts.
- Get the word out to colleges and schools.

The following voted in favor thereof: Sanderson, Learmont, Wartchow, Dowell, Hall and Mundt. Opposed: None, motion carried.

Commissioner Dowell's update regarding Civic Center elevator:

Commissioner Dowell stated the Civic Center had a ramp for handicap accessibility. Human Resources Director DeGrio stated this is still an ongoing issue as the upper lobby is not always open and people from out-of-town would not know where to enter.

Historical Trauma update:

Commissioner Sanderson informed the Commission of a meeting to be held Tuesday, July 26, 2011 from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Blandin Foundation board room. Commissioners were encouraged to contact Becky LaPlant and let her know if they were interested in attending.

Human Rights Commission Website Update:

Human Resources Director DeGrio described the changes made to the website: time of meetings, members updated and entered 2011 approved Minutes. The agenda is not typically posted on the website as the agenda is not set until the meeting and would need to be updated.

Commissioners would like to see links to other sites. Commissioner Sanderson volunteered to work on links and bring it back to the next regular meeting. Commissioners suggested possible sites to include educational sites: University of Minnesota Department of Human Rights, This is My Home, League of Human Rights Commissions, Grand Rapids Human Rights Library collection, other good Human Rights active websites and the Multicultural Center website. Commission members were encouraged to give information to Commissioner Sanderson.

Commission Chair Wartchow thanked those involved in updating the website.

Chair Wartchow's follow-up with IEDC contact:

Chair Wartchow stated he left a voice message about the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission and his name and number if they had any questions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Minnesota League Director Nomination:

Chair Wartchow stated the Minnesota League of Human Rights Commission was looking for nominations for District Director and District at Large Member. The Commission did not have anyone to nominate.

REPORTS ON CALLS AND INQUIRIES:

None reported.

PENDING COMPLAINTS:

Commissioner Sanderson received a call regarding a disability complaint which has not been resolved. Commissioner Sanderson offered information and support and referred the caller to the State.

OTHER:

Commissioners discussed printing of new brochures and changes to be made. Changes should include updating Commission member's names and updating the Minnesota Human Rights Commission information. The Commission will need more than 500 brochures for the accessibility mailing alone and requested Chair Wartchow get a quote and proof for Commissioners review. Chair Wartchow will email the proof to members.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MUNDT TO APPROVE THE COST OF PRINTING NEW BROCHURES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000. The following voted in favor thereof: Hall, Mundt, Wartchow, Dowell, Learmont and Sanderson.

Opposed: None, motion carried.

Commissioners would also like to review the posters to see if anything needs updating on them.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be July 28, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business the following motion was made to adjourn the meeting:

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON, SECOND BY
COMMISSIONER HALL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:03 P.M.
The following voted in favor thereof: Sanderson, Hall, Wartchow, Dowell,
Mundt and Learmont. Opposed: None, motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Schaefer, Recorder