

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

DATE: JUNE 29, 2011

TIME: 4:00 P.M.

ACTION

Est. Times

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: May 25, 2011 regular meeting

FINANCIALS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Follow-up request from Commissioner Mundt
- Rapids Read and Commission follow-up program
- Commissioner Dowell's update regarding Civic Center elevator
- Historical Trauma update
- Human Rights Commission Website Update
- Chair Wartchow's follow-up with IEDC contact.

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORTS ON CALLS AND INQUIRIES:

PENDING COMPLAINTS:

OTHER:

ADJOURNMENT:

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
CONFERENCE ROOM 2B – 420 NORTH POKEGAMA AVENUE  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 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, May 25, 2011, at 4:00 p.m.

**CALL OF ROLL:** On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Commission Chair Wartchow, Commissioners: Dowell, Hain, Hall, Learmont and Sanderson. Absent: Commissioners: Freeman and Mundt.

Staff: Lynn DeGrio, Human Resources Director

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

**SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA:**

A guest was present to speak on the ICC Symposium therefore the following motion was made to move discussion from New Business to after the Essar Steel Guest discussion:

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON, SECOND BY  
COMMISSIONER HALL TO MOVE THE ICC SYMPOSIUM AFTER  
ESSAR STEEL. The following voted in favor thereof: Sanderson, Hall,  
Wartchow, Dowell, Hain and Learmont. Opposed: None, motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 27, 2011 regular meeting**

The following corrections to the Minutes were made:

- Under “Rapids Read and Commission follow-up program update” number one should have read: Farmer’s Market won’t allow participants within 50 miles.
- “On a Call of Roll” Commissioner Hall was present and Commissioner Hain was absent.
- On all motions, Commissioner Hain should be replaced with Commissioner Hall.
- Under “Guest” portion should have read: Commissioner Hall reported the guest is not coming.
- Under “Old Business: Noreen Hautala update on Mental Health Month”: replace Commissioner Hain’s name with Commissioner Hall.
- Under “New Business: Historical Trauma” Commissioners felt clarification was needed as Commissioner Freeman was not present but a Commissioner stated

Commissioner Freeman was interested. In addition, Commissioner Hain's name should again be replaced with Commissioner Hall.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2011 AS CORRECTED ABOVE. The following voted in favor thereof: Hall, Hain, Wartchow, Dowell, Learmont and Sanderson. Opposed: None, motion carried.**

**GUEST: ESSAR STEEL**

Commission Chair Wartchow welcomed Kevin Kangas and Aimee Foszpanczyk to the meeting. Kevin and Aimee gave an overview of the Essar Steel project and present and future numbers of people to be hired. Present employees have been hired from Hoyt Lakes to Grand Rapids communities.

The Commission expressed a desire to make Grand Rapids more welcoming. Essar Steel has already incorporated a celebration from India and a Fugu ceremony into their events. Kevin recommended the Commission hold folk dancing and/or cuisine to bring people together. There may be new families in area schools and Grand Rapids community.

Aimee expressed her biggest job is educating new employees and wants to be HR proactive. The Commission expressed their desire for Essar to contact them to assist them. In addition, the Commission will forward the new Human Rights Commission brochure to Aimee after reprinting and put Aimee on the mailing list for Human Rights Commission events.

**GUEST: ICC SYMPOSIUM ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN ISSUE – TERESA ALTO**

Teresa Alto spoke to the Commission in regard to cosponsoring a series of events at ICC in the fall for travel fees for speakers and refreshments up to a \$1500 donation. Students in a variety of classes at ICC will be reading a book by Rebecca Skloot, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" as an interdisciplinary project. Skloot tells how Henrietta's cells were taken without her consent. The book discusses medical ethics and historical racism among other things. The total proposed budget is approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000.

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO ALLOW THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION BE A COSPONSOR FOR THIS ICC EVENT AND AUTHORIZE A CONTRIBUTION OF \$500.00 FOR THE ICC PROJECT THIS FALL IN OCTOBER, 2011. The following voted in favor thereof:**

**Sanderson, Hall, Wartchow, Dowell, and Hain. Abstained: Learmont until we see the rest of the budget. Motion carried.**

Commissioners then stated possible upcoming expenses of brochure reprinting, Hmong follow-up and possibly Essar Steel event. Chair Wartchow thanked Commissioner Learmont for his work with Essar Steel.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Chair Wartchow received correspondence from Commissioner Andy Mundt in regard to the marriage amendment and discrimination and the Human Rights Commission's possible involvement. The Commissioners stated they are not to be involved in politics but could possibly do an educational piece. Chair Wartchow would like this to be put on the agenda next month with a copy of the letter.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Rapids Read and Commission follow-up program update:

There is no new information as yet. Commissioners discussed an honorarium fee of \$500 for total expenses. Commission Chair Wartchow will follow up.

Spring Accessibility Project update:

The letter went out to over 500 businesses and housing projects within the City Limits. The Community Development Department stated they have already received a couple calls. People thought they were in compliance and found out they were not and offered to repaint their lines the next time it was due. Central School is working on handicap doors and Grace House has been informed about new striping in the parking lot.

Commissioner Dowell will contact Dale Anderson, Civic Center/Park and Rec Director about an elevator needed in the Civic Center.

Historical Trauma update:

Commissioner Sanderson spoke to Becky LaPlant at the Blandin Foundation and she is going to send out an email to have an organizational meeting.

Human Rights Commission Website:

Commissioners discussed the Human Rights Commission website and noted the agenda and minutes for meetings are not on it. The monthly meetings still need to be changed on the website.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

ICC Symposium on African-American issue.

This topic was moved forward to the second Guest Speaker.

**REPORTS ON CALLS AND INQUIRIES:**

None reported.

**PENDING COMPLAINTS:**

None reported.

**OTHER:**

Chair Wartchow will contact IEDC and make sure they are aware the Human Rights Commission exists. Commissioners asked if IEDC is on the mailing list.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be June 29, 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 HALL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DOWELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:12 P.M. The following voted in favor thereof: Hall, Dowell, Wartchow, Hain, Learmont and Sanderson. Opposed: None, motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

---

Dawn Schaefer, Recorder

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MAY 31, 2011**

*With Comparative Totals for the Period Ending December 31, 2010*

	<u>Actual 5/31/2011</u>	<u>Actual 12/31/2010</u>
<b>Human Rights Budgeted Expenditures</b>	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,000
Brochures	32	-
Poster, Letterhead & Reprints	-	-
Copy Supplies	-	118
Video	16	919
Advertising	-	-
Dues	55	-
Postage	-	162
Seminars/Meetings/Schools	-	-
Speaker Expenses	-	350
Awards	-	-
City Staff Training	-	-
Contracted Services-Legal	-	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Balance Available	<u>\$ 3,897</u>	<u>\$ 451</u>

	<u>2011 Budget</u>	<u>2011 Actual</u>
<b>Blandin Foundation Grant</b>	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Original Mailing	500	500
Follow up Mailing	500	-
Brochures	1,000	-
Posters/Stickers	1,000	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Balance Available	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,500</u>

With the MN House voting to put my rights up to vote to citizens of Minnesota this past weekend, I'm curious to see what the HRC might possibly be able to do to help keep discrimination out of our state constitution. I'm starting to brainstorm some ideas. If there's any way that the HRC could possibly help out, that'd be wonderful. I was wondering what my next project might be. Well I've seem to have found it! Its looking like I'm going to be busy the next 18 months. I'm not sure if this is something that the HrC can be involves with? Perhaps at the very least to maybe cosponsor some additional educational events?