

Minutes Human Rights Commission

The Human Rights Commission met on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 in the Second Floor Conference Room of the City Administration Building. Commission Chairman Ventura called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. All commissioners: Ethan Cords, John Worden, Dave Emanuelson, Jim Gunderson, Jamie Vanoosbree, Ryan Gillespie and Fred Ventura; City Administrator Kris Busse and Administrative Specialist Jeanette Clawson were present.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Ventura welcomed everyone and Commissioner Emanuelson took roll call. Minutes of the March 8, 2018 meeting were reviewed, Commissioner Worden made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Cords seconded the motion and all members aye for approval. The next meeting date was planned to be April 10th; however, the meeting was canceled because of the weather and no meeting was held during April.

Commissioner Vanoosbree presented an invoice for \$150 to Sign Pros for the banner prepared to promote the site of the commission's future mural project. The sign was placed during the first week of May just prior to the Run from the Heart Walk/Run. Commissioner Emanuelson made a motion to approve payment of this invoice, Commissioner Gunderson seconded the motion; all members voted aye for approval.

There were no comments heard during Open Forum.

During Reports and Comments of Commission Members, Commissioner Emanuelson complimented a recent article in the Steele County Portrait featuring Commissioner Ventura. Commissioner Ventura suggested the commission consider a community engagement activity featuring David Braveheart, a Native American Indian, about the Dakota/Lakota Tribes. The commission suggested Commissioner Ventura pursue options and report at the next meeting.

During Old Business, Commissioner Ventura advised a new display will soon show on the LED billboard, "Equality & Diversity" with joined hands showing.

Commissioner Gunderson distributed copies of a statement prepared for future commission response: "The Human Rights Commission believes that all people should have the same status in respect to civil rights, human rights, freedom of speech, property rights, and economics opportunity. In addition, the Owatonna Human Rights Commission believes in the value of inclusion and justice for all cultures and races. We welcome and promote diversity and recognize the rights of all people to live their lives with dignity free from discrimination, fear, violence and hatred." After discussion, Commissioner Worden made a motion to recommend this statement be used after council review: "The Owatonna Human Rights Commission believes that all people should have the same status in respect to civil rights, human rights, freedom of speech, property rights, and economics opportunity. In addition, the commission believes in the value of inclusion and justice for all cultures and races. We welcome diversity and recognize the rights of all people to live their lives with dignity free from discrimination, fear, violence and hatred." Commissioner Cords seconded the motion and all members voted aye in approval.

Action to create a OHRC Facebook page was tabled until the City has completed approval of a Social Media Policy.

Commissioner Cords attended a meeting with Sue Schroder and Tanya Paley, members of Owatonna Forward regarding a Welcome Center. Additional meetings are planned and Commissioner Cords hopes to share information during the June OHRC Meeting.

City Administrator Busse reminded the commissioners to use the Chamber Bucks purchased during 2018.

Commissioner Vanoosbree suggested asking the High School Counselors for student recommendations to serve as a student representative on the OHRC.

Commissioner Worden reported he submitted a grant application to the Owatonna Foundation. Project artist Steve DeLaitsch, will be included when preparing additional applications. Commissioners Gillespie and Cords will pursue grant opportunities offered by their employers, Bremer Bank and Cash Wise Foods.

During New Business, the 2020 Population Census was tabled to the next meeting.

Commissioner Ventura reported entry for the League of Minnesota HRC 2018 State Essay Contest was during April with no local entries submitted.

Commissioner Ventura requested nominations for commission chair person. Commissioner Gunderson made a motion for all current officers to serve another year; with no second, this motion died. Commissioner Emanuelson made a motion to nominate Commissioner Cords as the Commission Chair; Commissioner Ventura seconded the motion and Commissioner Cords accepted this nomination. Commissioner Gunderson nominated Commissioner Ventura; however, Commissioner Ventura declined the nomination. With no additional nominations heard, all members voted aye in favor of Commissioner Cords to serve as the Commission Chairman. Commission Member Cords nominated Commissioner Ventura as Vice-Chair, Commissioner Gunderson seconded the motion; Commissioner Ventura accepted this nomination and all members voted aye in approval. Commissioner Emanuelson nominated Commissioner Gunderson as Commission Secretary, Commissioner Worden seconded the motion, Commissioner Gunderson accepted this nomination. Commissioner Ventura nominated Commissioner Gillespie as Commission Secretary, Commissioner Cords seconded the motion; Commissioner Gillespie accepted this nomination. Following a 3-4 vote, Commissioner Gillespie was voted in to serve as the Commission Secretary.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 12th with the new officers conducting the meeting.

At 6:32 p.m., Commissioner Gillespie made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Worden seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Specialist