

Minutes  
Human Rights Commission

The Human Rights Commission met on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 in the Second Floor Conference Room of the City Administration Building. Commission Chairman Ethan Cords called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Commissioners: Ethan Cords, John Worden, Dave Emanuelson, Jim Gunderson, Ryan Gillespie and Fred Ventura and City Administrator Kris Busse were present. Commissioner Jamie Vanoosbree was not in attendance.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Cords welcomed everyone and Commissioner Gillespie took roll call. Minutes of the May 8, 2018 meeting were reviewed, Commissioner Gillespie made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Ventura seconded the motion and all members present voted aye for approval.

There were no comments heard during Open Forum, Reports or Commissioner Comments.

During Old Business, Commissioner Ventura confirmed the new LED display; "Equality & Diversity" with joined hands is showing. This display is very visible and he has heard several good comments.

City Administrator Busse confirmed Council received the OHRC Community Statement via commission minutes during their June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting with no objections.

Discussion to create an OHRC Facebook Page was tabled pending approval of the City's social media policy.

At 5:43 p.m., Commissioner Vanoosbree joined the meeting.

Commissioner Cords and Ventura reported they met with Mayor Kuntz to discuss opening a Welcome Center. Mayor Kuntz asked they prepare a Vision Statement, Mission Statement and informational handouts for future discussions. Commissioner Cords suggested a Virtual Welcome Center be considered and place a table at OPU with volunteers to disperse information; it would be ideal if these volunteers were bilingual to offer language assistance. The commissioners thought this would be a good approach for a Welcome Center but will continue to pursue other options to report at the next commission meeting.

Commissioner Worden suggested using the commission's Chamber Buck to contract service for power washing the wall surfaces for preparation of the mural. Commissioner Vanoosbree suggested using the bucks as prizes for a local essay contest and offered to contact Choice Academy and St Mary's Alternative School to ask if they would participate. Further discussion on use of the \$600 Chamber Bucks was tabled to the next meeting.

Funding options for the mural were discussed; \$14,000 is needed for this project. Commissioner Worden reported Bremer Bank is interested but does not fund this type of project. Commissioner Worden will contact the Bremer Foundation to provide project information for additional review. Plan to submit application for a Semac Grant within the next few weeks. An application for a MAYO Community Grant will be submitted in October; they have \$5,000 -\$10,000 available for such grants. Grant application was submitted to the Owatonna Foundation so anticipate their response this fall. Commissioner Ventura advised he made inquiry at the Eagles Club with no success; they plan to support Big Brother/Big Sisters and the Steele County Food Shelf this year.

At 6:00 p.m., Commissioner Gillespie left the meeting.

Commissioner Vanoosbree suggested asking Park and Rec Staff to prep the walls for the mural. Further discussion for the mural project was tabled to the next meeting.

Discussion for a community event featuring speaker David Braveheart was tabled to the next meeting.

City Administrator Busse explained a Complete Count Committee is being formed for the 2020 Census. Library Director Mark Blando will serve as the Committee Director. The goal of the committee is to ensure all community members are included in the count. Commissioners Cords and Emanuelson volunteered to represent the Human Rights Commission on this committee.

The 2018 Human Rights Commission Summit will be held in St Paul on Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Five commissioners expressed interest in attending this summit: Gunderson, Emanuelson, Vanoosbree, Ventura and Cords. Commissioner Gunderson made a motion to approve expense of the registration fees (\$25 each), mileage and parking for the commissioners to attend this event. Commissioner Vanoosbree seconded the motion, all members present voted aye for approval.

Commissioner Ventura reported he has monitored the commission's mailbox and has received various junk emails.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. With no additional business, at 6:23 p.m. Commissioner Ventura made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Emanuelson seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris M. Busse, City Administrator