

Owatonna Human Rights Commission - Minutes

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission (OHRC) met on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, in the Second Floor Conference Room at City Hall. Commission Chairman Gunderson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with Commissioners Cords, Gillespie, Emanuelson, Vanoosbree, Worden and Gunderson present. Also present were City Administrator Busse, Administrative Specialist Clawson. Commissioner Effertz was not present.

Commissioner Gunderson welcomed everyone to the meeting and lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Commissioner Emanuelson made a motion to approve Minutes of the June 8, 2021, OHRC Meeting as presented, Commissioner Worden seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

Rebecca Moore and Todd Buegler, representing Engage Owatonna gave presentation of “Let’s Talk”. Their group’s mission is to provide Owatonna citizens a platform to listen, share and connect within the community. This is an online platform which is monitored for negative, non-productive feedback. Current topics open for comments include: what should happen to the current OHS Building; the Downtown Street Scape Project and Community Stories. Their online platform is available to all community members at no cost as they received a grant for a 12-month pilot initiative. They are attending various group’s meetings to engage and develop good partnerships for what is going on and encouraged everyone present to participate to create better discussion opportunities.

Commissioner Worden gave a brief update on the OHRC Mural Project. Artist DeLaitsch and Girl Scout Leader Jodie Smith are meeting within the next two weeks to finalize mural plans. They have a verbal agreement regarding the new concept to offer diversity within diversity. The girl scouts could complete some of the panels and would like to begin as soon as possible. Commissioner Worden made a motion to authorize working on these panels prior to the next OHRC Meeting. Commissioner Gillespie recommended a written agreement be prepared detailing the project scope, time line and costs for clarity with all parties prior to any work. City Administrator Busse requested a revised plan and proposed contract detailing the terms of understanding be available at the next OHRC Meeting. Commissioner Gunderson commented the commission will need to review collaboration and funding options.

At 6:35, p.m. Commissioner Gillespie left the meeting as commission members discussed items for the OHRC 2022 Budget Request and proposed activities/expenses. Discussion included \$11,700 request for:

- \$2,800 advertisement on the LED Billboard on Hoffman Avenue (quarterly ad at \$700 each)

- \$1,400 OHRC Member training (\$200 per OHRC member)

- \$1,500 Alliance for Greater Equity community activity

- \$5,000 OHRC Mural Project

- \$1,000 MLK/Day of Service speaker or program options

City Administrator Busse commented the current OHRC annual budget is \$2,700 and some years, this has not all been spent and a request for \$11,700 would be a significant increase. She recommended they prioritize activities as it is highly unlikely they would get everything requested and suggested if completion of the mural during 2022 is a high priority, then other items should be scaled back in this proposal.

Commission members will discuss and finalize the OHRC Budget Proposal during the August ORHC Meeting for presentation to City Council during their August 17th Study Session.

At 6:44 p.m., Commissioner Cords made motion to adjourn, Commissioner Vanoosbree seconded this, with no objections, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 10th at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Specialist