

**Owatonna Human Rights Commission - Minutes – Draft Copy**

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission (OHRC) met on Tuesday, June 8, 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, Effertz, Gillespie, Emanuelson and Gunderson present as were City Administrator Busse and Administrative Specialist Clawson. Commissioner Worden and Vanoosbree were not present.

Commissioner Gunderson welcomed everyone and lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Commissioner Effertz introduced guest Wendell Engelstad, representing SCORE South Central Minnesota Chapter #0710. SCORE is a national network of volunteer expert business mentors. Score’s mission is to foster vibrant small business communities through mentoring and education with vision that every person has the support necessary to thrive as a small business owner. Mr. Engelstad has been involved in SCORE 5-6 years and recruiting new members to join their group; they currently have 12 members in the local chapter. He estimates 50% of the clients he has assisted have been minorities. SCORE is hosting a social event to recognize the achievement of diverse entrepreneurs in the community on Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at Oakview located south of Owatonna. There will be three speakers presenting their successes stories: Bhante Sathi, Anna Lee and Gauher “Mo” Mohammad. Reservations can be made on their website with fee of \$5 to attend. Commissioner Gunderson thanked Mr. Engelstad for presenting this information, Commissioner Effertz commented she plans to attend this event next week.

Commissioner Gunderson asked for nominations for commission officers. Commissioner Effertz nominated Commissioner Gillespie for Secretary which she declined. Commissioner Cordes nominated Commissioner Emanuelson for Secretary, which he also declined. Commissioner Gunderson commented he spoke with Commissioner Vanoosbree prior to the meeting, and she agreed to continue serving as the Commission Secretary; Commissioner Emanuelson nominated Commissioner Vanoosbree as Secretary, Commissioner Cords seconded the nomination; Commissioner Effertz nominated Commissioner Gunderson to continue to serve as President, Commissioner Cords seconded this nomination, Commissioner Gunderson accepted this nomination. Commissioner Gunderson nominated Commissioner Cordes to continue as the Commission’s Vice-President, Commissioner Emanuelson seconded this nomination, Commissioner Cordes accepted this nomination. With the slate full, Commissioner Gunderson asked for additional nominations to which there were none; all members present voted aye for approval.

After review of the Minutes of the May 11, 2021 OHRC Meeting, Commissioner Gillespie made a motion to approve as presented, Commissioner Cordes seconded the motion, and all members present voted aye for approval.

Commissioner Worden joined the meeting via ZOOM with an update on the OHRC Mural Project. He contacted Artist DeLaitsch who is out of state this month and unable to attend this meeting but will plan to attend the July OHRC Meeting. They will meet prior to the July meeting to review project plans. Commissioner Gillespie suggested they also meet with Jodie Smith, Girl Scout Troop Leader in this discussion and plan development.

Commissioner Vanoosbree joined the meeting at 6:05 pm, she was attending the Raise Our Standards event at the OCC hosted by the Center of the American Experiment. This was an information session to discuss revisions to Minnesota’s social studies standards such as the Critical Race Theory.

Commission members discussed potential 2022 OHRC activities and costs. City Administrator Busse

advised it is important Council receive a detailed proposal for budget consideration. Commissioner Gunderson requested members consider potential 2022 activities to discuss during the July OHRC Meeting. After agreeing on which activities to plan, a detailed budget proposal will be prepared to present to City Council during their Budget Work Session on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Activities/expenses suggested include:

\$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

Commissioner Emanuelson reported he received a message from Amber Aaseth, Steele County Public Health Nurse on the county's COVID-19 vaccination clinics. There have held several clinics at various places such as places of business, the mosque, day-care centers, and currently offer a drive-thru clinic on Wednesdays. He will forward this information to all commission members.

Commissioner Effertz presented the 2021 OHRC Summer Newsletter with comment she plans to make a minor font change. Commissioner Emanuelson requested information be added about the Public Health Wednesday Shot Clinic. Commissioner Emanuelson made a motion to approve the newsletter with these revisions, Commissioner Vanoosbree seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval.

Commissioner Vanoosbree made a motion to adjourn at 6:30 p.m., Commissioner Effertz seconded the motion, with no objections, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Specialist