

Owatonna Human Rights Commission – Minutes – DRAFT COPY

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission (OHRC) met on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, in the Second Floor Conference Room at City Hall. At 5:30 p.m. Chairman Gunderson called the meeting to order. Present were Commissioners Cords, Effertz, Worden and Gunderson (Commissioner Worden was attending remotely). Also present were City Administrator Busse and Administrative Specialist Clawson.

Commissioner Gunderson welcomed everyone to the meeting and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Effertz made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, Commissioner Cords seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, voting aye were Commissioners Cords, Effertz, Worden and Gunderson, with no other votes, the motion carried.

Minutes of the August 10, 2021 OHRC Meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Effertz made a motion to approve as presented; Commissioner Cords seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, voting aye were Commissioners Cords, Effertz, Worden and Gunderson, with no other votes, the motion carried.

During Commissioner Comments, Commissioner Effertz said she will need input for the next edition of the OHRC Newsletter by mid-November.

During Old Business, Commissioner Worden confirmed the Girl Scouts are planning to paint a mosaic design on the outer panels and the center panels (the OHRC portion of the mural) will be done by Artist DeLaitsch. This center portion will show a timeline of people migrating to the Owatonna Community. A rough drawing of the proposal has been received and a more formal sketch will be presented to Council next spring prior to the painting process.

City Administrator Busse confirmed OHRC's \$4,200 Budget Request for next year is included in the Preliminary 2022 Administration Budget. Council and staff will review each department Preliminary Budget during the next several months for final approval during the December 7th Council Meeting. Last week Council approved a Preliminary Levy increase of 9.75% but several council members commented they would like this to better align with the 6.75% Growth Capacity and recommended OHRC Commission continue looking for additional funding opportunities for the mural project. \$3,000 of the OHRC Budget Request is for the OHRC Mural Project, the balance needed to meet the mural's anticipated contract amount of \$9,600. Commissioner Worden confirmed, \$9,600 is the amount discussed and verbally agreed to by Artist DeLaitsch. City Administrator Busse will contact City Attorney Mark Walbran to draft an agreement for Artist DeLaitsch and Council approval. Commissioner Worden confirmed he plans to continue pursuing grant applications for this project, October 1, 2021 is the application deadline for a SEMCAC Arts Programming Proposals. Commission President Gunderson thanked Commissioner Worden for pursuing completion of the mural project and then thanked Commissioners Vanoosbree and Cords for joining him at the City Council Study Session and Commissioner Cords for preparing the council presentation. Commissioner Gunderson believes the mural ties in well with the downtown redevelopment and during their presentation to Council they suggested adding a QRC code in the design which would cue to the city and serve as an interactive directory to promote tourism.

Commissioners Cords and Gunderson attended the August 30th ISD #176 School Board Meeting to observe and show support for school board members during discussion on Critical Race Theory (CRT). There was a large crowd present, the Board Room filled, and many stood in the hallway and into the parking lot during the meeting. City Administrator Busse advised future School Board Meetings will be held in the Small Group Forum at the high school with larger space available. Commissioner Gunderson suggested inviting School Superintendent Elstad or School Board President Mark Sebring to an OHRC Meeting for update. During discussion, it was agreed CRT is currently misunderstood by many and educating the community on issues of discrimination is one of the OHRC missions.

At 6:16 p.m., Commissioner Cords made motion to adjourn, Commissioner Effertz seconded this motion, with no objections, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 12th at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Specialist