

Owatonna Human Rights Commission - Minutes – Draft Copy

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission (OHRC) met on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 in the Gainey Room at the Owatonna Public Library which was also accessible via Microsoft TEAMS Call-in Number 507-242-3225; Conference ID 374 940 357#. Commission Chairman Gunderson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with Commissioners Cords, Effertz, Gillespie and Gunderson present as were City Administrator Busse and Administrative Specialist Clawson. Attending virtually was Commissioner Worden and Commissioners Emanuelson and Vanoosbree were unable to attend.

Commissioner Gunderson welcomed everyone to the meeting and read a Meeting Statement regarding COVID-19 concerns and virtual participation options. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, Minutes of the April 13, 2021 OHRC Meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Cords made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented; Commissioner Effertz seconded the motion; a with a roll call all members voted aye for approval; the motion carried.

Troop Leader Jodie Smith and members of the 4th grade Junior Girl Scouts from Owatonna Troop 4795, (Jaycie Smith, Adelynn Miller, Shaela Karlen, Olivia Winkel, and Chloe Splittgerber) were present, they explained they hope to make a lasting contribution to the community and considering beautifying the concrete wall panels along the public trail by the Blast. This space has been designated for a mural by the OHRC and they hope to collaborate progression of this project. They distributed examples of murals completed by Girl Scout Troops in Brainerd and Mankato during 2018 and suggestion for a local project. They contacted the OHS Art Department and propose a split panel design which troop members could help paint and suggested breaking the panels up with words/phrases of encouragement shown in random spaces. Commissioner Gunderson thanked the troop members for their interest in this project, he explained the OHRC received project proposals from two artists and choose Steven DeLaitsch to complete the mural when funding is secured. Commissioner Worden has chaired this project and will contact Mr. DeLaitsch to discuss collaboration of these projects and provide an update during the June OHRC Meeting. City Administrator Busse commented the OHRC currently has \$3,800 set aside for the mural project and looking for additional funding. Commissioner Gunderson thanked the Girl Scouts for attending the meeting and presenting their mural suggestion.

Jim Ohberg, Parrish Associate at Associated Church invited OHRC Members to participate in a Discovery Trip to North Minneapolis. He is acquainted with four pastors in this area and would request they meet to discuss racial tensions and conditions they encounter each day. Hopefully, a day trip will be organized this fall for OHRC Members.

The commissioners discussed options of where to hold future commission meetings. After discussion, the commission decided to continue meeting in the Second Floor Meeting Room at City Hall.

Commissioner Gunderson asked commission members to bring potential 2022 expenses to the June OHRC Meeting for use in preparing the annual budget request for City Council consideration.

Commissioner Effertz commented she is organizing the next edition of the OHRC Newsletter and looking for topic ideas.

Commissioner Gunderson commented he and Commissioner Emanuelson spoke at the P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) Meeting after last month's OHRC Meeting and would welcome opportunities to speak with other organizations promoting the OHRC.

Commissioner Worden made a motion to adjourn at 6:34 p.m., Commissioner Effertz seconded the motion, with no objections, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 8th at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Specialist