

Owatonna Human Rights Commission
Minutes

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission (OHRC) met on Monday, August 10, 2020 in the Second Floor Conference Room of the City Administration Building. The meeting was also accessible via Microsoft TEAMS at Call-in Number 507-242-3225 and Conference ID 250 069 735#. Commission Chairman Gunderson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Commissioner Gunderson and Administrative Specialist Jeanette Clawson. Attending virtually were Commissioners Ethan Cords, Susie Effertz, Ryan Gillespie and John Worden and City Administrator Kris Busse. Commissioners Jamie Vanoosbree and Emanuelson were unable to attend.

Commissioner Gunderson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Minutes of the July 14, 2020 OHRC Meeting were reviewed; Commissioner Cords made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Effertz seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, voting aye were Commissioners Cords, Effertz, Gillespie, Worden and Gunderson, the motion carried.

During Commissioner Comments, Commissioner Effertz asked if others read the article in the Owatonna People's Press on August 1st, "Somali Immigrant Lives Dream with Restaurant" regarding J's Sambusa, a new family style restaurant in Mankato.

During Old Business, Commissioner Gunderson encouraged everyone to participate in an OHRC Reading Circle to read, "How to be an Anti-Racist" by Ibram X Kendi. The book discusses concepts of racism and proposals for anti-racist individual actions and systemic changes, many have viewed this book as a shining a light on the state of racism in America and what we can do about it. Small group discussion will be planned within the next few weeks and later this fall, the group can participate in discussion with other Community Reading Circles.

Commissioner Effertz received trivia information from former OHRC Member Fred Ventura to use in the OHRC Newsletter. Commissioner Worden suggested also including information from "Hamilton", a Broadway production which portrays America then as told by America now which is currently shown on Disney Plus.

During New Business, City Administrator Busse shared a Proclamation for Women's Equality Day on August 26th. The proclamation encourages the importance of achieving equal rights and opportunities for women which are inseparable from the cause of human dignity and equal justice for all. After review, all commissioners concurred to ask Mayor Kuntz make this proclamation for the City of Owatonna during the next City Council Meeting.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 8th at 5:30 p.m. City Administrator Busse recommended the OHRC Meetings continue with option to access by TEAMS.

At 5:55 p.m., Commissioner Worden made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Effertz seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, all members voted aye, and the meeting was adjourned.