

Duluth Human Rights Commission

Regular Meeting Notes

February 12, 2020, 5:30PM

City Hall, room 330

- I. Roll call - Vice Chair Grimm chaired the meeting
 - A. Commissioners present: Ashley Grimm, Mark Hakes, Carl Huber, Bettina Keppers, and Ri Preap
 - B. Commissioners absent: Princess Kisob (excused); Ashley Neenan (excused), Sandra van den Bosse (excused)

- II. Consent agenda
 - A. No January notes for approval
 - B. Consent agenda approved unanimously

- III. Public Comments - No public comments

- IV. Chair/Vice Chair Report - no report

- V. Committee Reports
 - A. Gender & Sexuality
 1. Commissioner Hakes to reachout to the Director of the Workforce Development Center on the City of Duluth's initiatives on equitable hiring and women in the trades
 2. Confirmed to meet once a month
 - B. Education
 1. Did not meet
 2. Discussion on community feedback on hiring superintendent search process and boundary changes for schools. NAACP Education Committee has taken action on the boundary issues topic.
 - C. Findings
 1. Human Rights Officer Crawford had an initial meeting with director of Child Protection Services (CPS)
 2. The Commission could take a more active role in educating about the African Heritage Preservation Act
 3. Discussion regarding Minnesota being top in the nation for removing children of color from their family of origin. Ingdegious

committee doing work in this area to ensure reunification plans being followed.

D. Housing Justice

1. There is a meeting Monday, 2/17/2020 at 6:30PM at the DiMiano Center. Its before the City Council to pave over 19 affordable housing units
2. Before the City Council is to increase the allotted spots for vacation rentals from 60 to 100 - 10% increase each year
3. Discussion on the issue of evictions of people suffering mental illness and certain housing units more prone to doing it.
4. County Commissioner Patrick Boyle shared at the January meeting there is additional state money to keep warming centers open nightly. Gloria Die, CHUM and Lincoln Park School are the locations for these centers.

VI. Strategic Planning/Retreat - tentative date 3/21

- A. Patty Beech is on board to facilitate the meeting. It will be 3 hours with a breakdown of 0.5 hour for introductions; 1.5 hours for commissioners role/responsibilities in accordance with Chapter 29C, Article 1, Sec. 29C-5; and 1.0 for strategic planning and setting 3 to 4 goals for the coming year.
- B. It was suggested that Chair Kisob and Vice Chair Grimm invite former members to our March meeting to give a historical perspective and history of the Commission

VII. Community Correspondence

- A. March for Missing and Murdered Indigeous Women, Friday, February 14, 2020 at Dr. Robert Powless Cultural Center, 1:00PM to 4:00PM, march at 2:45PM
- B. Twin Ports Choral will preform "Considering Matthew Shepherd, Friday and Saturday, February 21 & 22 at 7:00PM at NorSHor Theatre

VIII. Human Officers Report

- A. There have been 11 cases: 4 - Child Protective Services; 2 - housing; 1 - mental health; 2 - work related; 1 - school and gender; and 1 - employment
- B. Police Riot Gear held an event at Denfeld High School last Monday, February 3, 2020
- C. Possible joint meeting with CRB regarding immigration policy

- IX. First reading of changes to bylaws
 - A. Vote will come at March Commission meeting for passage of bylaw changes

- X. Adjourned at 6:35PM

Respectfully submitted by
Commissioner Carl Huber, Secretary