

Duluth Human Rights Commission (HRC)
Regular Meeting - minutes
Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 5:00PM via WebEx

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions
 - a. Chair Lue called the meeting to order at 5:02pm
 - i. Commissioners present: Commissioner Lue, Commissioner Jaramillo, Commissioner, van den Bosse, Commissioner Huber
 - ii. Guests: Human Rights Officer (HRO) Carl Crawford, Human Rights Assistant Laura Laaksonen, Ryan Prouty (First Witness CAC)
2. Consent of Meeting Minutes - September regular meeting
 - a. Commissioner van den Bosse approved/Commissioner Huber seconded
3. Consent of Today's Agenda - October 13, 2021
 - a. Commissioner Huber approved/Commissioner van den Bosse seconded
4. Announcements from Commissioners
 - a. None
5. Public Comments
 - a. Written public comments submitted prior to meeting - none
 - b. Live public comments via WebEx - none
6. Guest Speakers
 - a. Ryan Prouty, Family Advocate, First Witness
 - i. Gave a synopsis of what First Witness Child Advocacy Center is, as well as his role as an advocate when helping families navigate the criminal justice system and the child protection system
 - ii. First Witness serves southern St. Louis County and Carlton County, but also does courtesy services for more rural counties
 - iii. First Witness serves any child 12 or under who discloses any kind of criminal abuse, but will also serve children ages 13-17, or vulnerable adults
 - iv. First Witness is working to find ways to build more community engagement and find processes that work the best for everybody
 - b. Nathan Smith, Equity Coordinator, ISD 709 - this guest speaker has been moved to next month's general meeting
7. Executive Report (Executive Team consists of Chair Keppers, Vice Chair Lue, and Secretary Jaramillo)
 - a. Presentation of Bylaws
 - i. Working to finalize, and will send out for feedback once these are done
 - b. Creating a Work Plan for 2022
 - i. Will consist of different events and educational workshops, and will be presented to the commission when finalized
 - c. Creating a Human Rights Award (individual or organization)
 - i. Looking to discuss this more in depth
 - d. TPAC event
 - i. Looking to tentatively hold this event sometime in November

- e. Collaborating with the Indigenous Commission
 - i. Looking to create an educational session in collaboration with this commission
- 8. Findings Sub-Committee Report (Findings Subcommittee consists of Commissioner Huber, Commissioner van den Bosse, and Secretary Jaramillo)
 - a. A Proctor citizen has been having disagreements with a neighbor, and she does not feel comfortable calling the police
 - b. An individual is having difficulties with their apartment complex due to them not adequately responding to her necessary disability accommodations
 - i. Carl Crawford is working with Legal Aid, HDC, and possibly Access North
 - c. A woman has lost custody of her child, and is attempting to get access to the visitation time that she has the right to
 - i. Carl Crawford is working on contacting the attorneys involved
 - d. An individual has issues with landlords not responding to inadequate conditions in her home
 - e. A mother has a son with autism, and attempted to enroll him in an education program that would not allow her to use the communication system that she has with her son
 - f. A man is attempting to have access to visitation with his child
 - i. There were disclosures from the child to school personnel which were not reported about mom and mom's boyfriend
 - ii. Carl Crawford said that there was a court hearing coming up
 - g. A man who was charged with dealing drugs claims that he's not a drug dealer
 - i. There was a court hearing on September 22
 - h. A woman was denied medication in an emergency room setting, and asked to use the phone so that she could leave, and staff denied her that right
 - i. Security then kicked her out of the emergency room
 - i. The post office case that has been referred to in previous Human Rights Commission meetings is still ongoing
- 9. Ad Hoc Committee Report - Roles and Restructuring Committees
 - a. There is a document about roles and responsibilities that has been shared with all commissioners that outline the different committees
 - b. A full commission would have three people on each committee (Communications, Research, Events, and the Emergency Response Team), in addition to the standing committees
 - c. These committees would be about 1-3 hours of work per month, with reports back to the commission
 - d. Commissioner van den Bosse inquired when these committees will be implemented
 - i. They do seem to be ongoing starting now
 - e. Communications committee: Commissioner Lue and Commissioner Keppers
 - f. Research committee: Commissioner van den Bosse and Commissioner Huber
 - g. Events committee: Commissioner Lyons and Commissioner Jaramillo
- 10. Racial Bias Audit Update (Commissioner Lue)

- a. We can email any notes to Commissioner Lue about the proposed RFP draft
 - b. Commissioner Huber inquired about the relationship between the DPD and the Duluth school systems (including universities and community colleges)
 - c. Commissioner van den Bosse inquired how Commissioner Lue was feeling about the draft
 - i. Commissioner Lue mentioned that she is aware of the intersectionalities, but it is difficult and important to note that this is a focused racial bias audit
 - d. Commissioner Jaramillo inquired about the percentages involved in the criterion for selection
 - i. Commissioner Lue will bring the question back to the group
 - e. Please submit any feedback for Commissioner Lue by October 25th
11. Review of Actions Taken and Plans Ahead
- a. Tabled for further discussion
12. Human Rights Officer Report
- a. There was a news story about an event that happened at Duluth Edison school, and how should we respond to this?
 - b. Indigenous People's Day was on Monday
 - i. We are working on having better communication so that we can know about all of these events before they happen
 - ii. The event had good attendance and good media coverage
 - c. We continue to see more issues regarding housing, especially as winter approaches
 - i. There are many things that people can do to stay at their place of residence, we just must get the message and information out to them
 - d. The case of Gabby Petito has sparked new interest in our nation about how these crimes are reported, and if race is a factor in these investigations regarding missing people
 - i. How does this impact our community? How does the Human Rights Commission play a role in this conversation?
 - e. The visitation issue mentioned in the findings committee report is figuring itself out
 - i. Using the visitation center does cost money, and so they are working through that
 - f. There was a press conference earlier this week about our community's internet service
 - i. There is a survey about this issues, and the commission should be pushing the survey out to the community
 - ii. Close to 35% of households in Duluth do not have reliable connections to internet
 - g. The next findings committee meeting is on this following Monday (October 18th)
 - h. Commissioner van den Bosse inquired about issues at Greysolan residence

- i. The building has designated the outside of the building as a non-smoking area, and so now the smoking area is in the back of the building that is not accessible by wheelchair, and many residents utilize wheelchairs
 - ii. Blackwater Lounge has offered to donate a part of their parking lot to help with this issue
 - iii. The committee is expressing concern about this issue on behalf of the residents
 - i. Halloween is coming up, and it is important to stress to our children and families that costumes need to be culturally appropriate and do not carry on stereotypes
 - i. This is a possible topic for our Facebook messaging
- 13. Request for Agenda Items for Next Meeting
 - a. Commissioner Huber is concerned about the level of funding that the Human Rights Office receives - it does not adequately match the need of the city of Duluth
 - i. Possibly the Executive Committee should speak about this at their next meeting - it will be put on the agenda for the Executive Committee
 - ii. Especially important to be visible during an election year
 - iii. Carl Crawford says that this is a conversation that is being had
 - b. How can we be more proactive when learning about and attending more community events?
 - c. A reminder email will be sent out
- 14. Adjournment
 - a. Commissioner Huber motioned/Commissioner Jaramillo seconded- meeting adjourned at 5:54pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Tyra Jaramillo, Secretary