

Duluth Human Rights Commission (HRC)
Regular Meeting - minutes
Wednesday, October 11, 2023 @ 5:30pm
City Hall Room 330

- 1) Call to Order and Introductions
 - a) Meeting called to order at 5:40pm
 - b) Commissioners present: Commissioners Lue, Jaramillo-Kraemer, Ostrander, and Huber.
 - c) Commissioners absent: Commissioner Wittenberg and Keppers
 - d) Guests: Human Rights Officer (HRO) Carl Crawford and community member Kathleen Spencer
- 2) Consent of Minutes - September 13, 2023
Moted to approve by Commissioner Huber; seconded by Commissioner Ostrander; approved unanimously.
- 3) Public comments and written comments
 - a) Written public comments submitted prior to meeting
 - i) None
 - b) Live public comments
 - i) None
- 4) Announcements and Upcoming Events
 - a) Council on African Heritage Oct 19 Room 330
 - i) African American Preservation Act (Similar to the Native American Preservation Act). An attempt in the 1980s, but never followed up on. This would be a federal law.
 - b) Advisory Council for the Post Board. This group formed after the killing of George Floyd this meeting is on 10/20 from 10am-noon in room 330. The meeting will focus on DNA from juveniles. How long is it kept, how is it collected, why is it collected.
 - c) First Generation Day at University of Wisconsin-Superior will be on November 2nd at 4pm.
 - d) Absences: If anyone is going to be absent from the Commission meetings please email chair, Laura Laaksonen, and Carl Crawford.
 - e) Question: There is inquiry about the previous request for virtual meetings during inclement weather or illness. HRO Crawford noted there has not been a decision from the state yet and noted the challenge of needing to make meetings accessible for people who do not have access to technology.
 - f) Question: Does HRO Crawford connect with One Roof on tenant-landlord discussions. HRO Crawford noted that when there are no schedule conflicts, he does attend those meetings.
- 5) Committee Reports
 - a) Executive Team
 - i) Work Plan
 - (1) Previous work plan (2022-2023) circulated.
 - (2) Question: How will the Commission participate in the continuing racial bias audit? As the work moves into the implementation stage and open community

sessions, should that still be part of our work plan for 2023-2024?

- (a) Suggestion from Commissioners Jaramillo-Kraemer and Huber to change the wording and keep it as a priority.
 - (3) Commission reaffirmed priority to maintain reporting relationship with ISD 709. Annual reports on suspension rates in ISD 709 and other topics related to marginalized populations in our schools should continue.
 - (4) Expressed desire to have the Duluth HR Commission connect with other HR commissions throughout Minnesota.
 - (5) Commissioner Huber suggested that the work plan can be revised in the executive committee and present it at the November meeting.
 - (6) Decision made to shift from months and days of recognition to just months of recognition.
 - (7) Decision made to hold two HR Commission listening sessions in the work plan for this coming year. Potential topics to consider: court's shift back to in-person hearings, homelessness, education, mental health, etc.
- b) Human Rights Award
 - (1) Solidified the process a little more
 - (2) Decision that people may not self-nominate.
 - (a) Commissioners may nominate people and organizations.
 - (3) There will be an individual and organization award.
 - (4) Awards will be made in January.
 - (5) Timeline for this will be solidified by the executive committee.
 - c) Findings Committee
 - i) Committee did not meet this month.
- 6) Human Rights Officer Report
 - a) Commission paused for a moment to reflect on Israel and Palestine
 - b) Attended the NAACP meeting in Minneapolis
 - c) Met with the facilities team at the Arlington Soccer fields.
 - i) ADA accessible parking spots were antiquated and inaccessible. Parking and side space lines will be added. Paving with a different gradient to make getting up the hill easier.
 - d) Completed term on Generations Board.
 - e) Reappointed to the MLK Jr. planning committee.
 - f) Presented at the 3rd Annual Equity Summit at the Iron Range.
 - g) Attended the Employer Champion Lunch and Learn event
 - h) Met with three community groups.
- 7) Additional public comments and commissioner comments
 - a) None.
- 8) Request for Agenda Items for Next Meeting (10/31/23) Send to Laura Laaksonen
- 9) Adjourn
 - i) Meeting adjourned at: 6:43
 - ii) Next meeting 11/8/2023

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Nomi Ostrander, Secretary