

Duluth Human Rights Commission Meeting
March 13, 2019, 5:30PM
City Hall Room 303

1. Chair van den Bosse called the meeting to order at 5:30PM
2. Roll Call:
 - Commissioners Present: Princess Kisob, Ashley Grimm, Ashley Neenan, Carl Huber, Sandra van den Bosse, Charles Obije, Sherry Williams
 - Absent: Rebecca Domagala (excused)
 - Others: Duluth Human Rights Officer Crawford, Ms. Laura Laaksonen (new assistant in Human Rights Office)
 - Consent Agenda:
 - Corrections: Section 10 of February minutes: "live" not love; Section 7b William Howes name misspelled
 - Commissioner Kisob moved to approve the minutes; all Commissioners voted to approve
 - Chair van den Bosse welcomed Commissioner Williams to her first meeting and the Commissioners introduced themselves to her
 - Commissioner Williams volunteered to take notes
3. Public Comments:

None
4. Chair Report:

nothing to report, will discuss news under agenda item, please note that this commissioner will be absent at the next meeting
5. Vice Chair report:

nothing to report
6. Committee reports:
 - Findings:
 - Met February 25 and reviewed 5 cases and provided counsel and direction.
 - Education Committee:
 - HRC would like to have a presence on the school board committee and/or the Education Equity Advisory Committee (EEAC).
 - Sunday the NAACP is having a committee fair at AICHO to explain the committees of NAACP.
 - In effort not to duplicate advocacy, in mid-December Mayor Larson at Chair van den Bosse and Vice Chair Grimm's request reached out to the school board to explore the role education committee can play with addressing the graduation rates and achievement gaps in ISD709. A meeting with Superintendent Bill Gronseth, Coordinator of the Office of Education Equity William Howes, Vice Chair Grimm, Commissioner Neenan, and Commissioner Huber is scheduled on March 25, 2019 at the school district's main office. Assistant Superintendent Jeff Horton, Curriculum Director Gail Netland, Duluth Human Rights Officer Crawford and Chair van den Bosse were also included in the invitation.

- Last week Governor Waltz visited Myers Wilkins Elementary
- The new Human Rights Commissioner for the State of Minnesota - Commissioner Rebecca Lucero at invitation of Human Rights Officer Crawford will be visiting Duluth
- CEDAW
 - Looking for membership
- HR Rubric
 - Chair van den Bosse volunteered to be on this committee (with Commissioner Neenan)
- Homeless Person's Bill of Rights
 - Meet March 14 at 6:30PM, Dorothy Day House, 1712 Jefferson Street
 - Phase 2 will include discussion on camping ban

7. Warming Shelter

- With change in weather, the time has arrived to evaluate this year's use in preparation for next year's offering
- It was suggested to include actual shelter employees in the evaluation process

8. Protective Gear

- There was a meeting March 12 where the gear was looked at, discussion was had, and the next step is to write policy

9. Community Request information in advance motion

- Commission Obije moved to open discussion on request for information
- Commissioner Kisob proposed the following: The Human Rights Commission requests to receive community appeals for action at least 5 business days prior to the publicly scheduled Human Rights Commission meeting in order for all members of the commission to exercise due diligence. Requests not received within that time frame, may not receive a response until next month's meeting
- Commissioner Obije moved to approve newly worded community request for information
- All Commissioner approved
- Community Request for Information are usually routed through the Chair or Human Rights Officer

10. Indigenous Lands Statement

- Commissioner Kisob provided an informative presentation defining what a land acknowledgement is and why recognize the land. The reference for her presentation was sited from the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion at Northwestern University.
- It is suggested the statement be brought to the Indigenous Commission for review. Commissioner Kisob agreed to do this at one of their upcoming meetings. Commissioner Huber volunteered to join her.
- Chair van den Bosse asked a point of protocol as to when would the acknowledgement be read - before or after the roll call

11. Pride Organizing

- Commissioner Neenan is meeting with Duluth/Superior PRIDE. If we plan on participating in the PRIDE festival, what would that participation actually look like? The festival is always on Labor Day weekend.

- Vice Chair Grimm suggested a banner or buttons for use in situations such as this. Also, literature may also be useful. Chair van den Bosse to write to Mayor to ask for banner.

12. Elections

- Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary elections will occur at the next meeting - April 10
- There will be two open Commissioner positions on the Commission

13. Human Rights Officer report

- Duluth Human Rights Officer provided the following report”
 - Commissioners who complete their terms receive an acknowledgement of their service with plaque and letter
 - Ms. Laura Laaksonen started 13.5 hours per week. Her schedule in the Human Rights Office is for Monday, Wednesday and Friday
 - Snow/Snow removal is not equitable in our city. This needs to be addressed through the lens of equity
 - The Commission on Disability is looking at the “workability” of Duluth. How do people with disabilities move around Duluth?
 - The youth truancy issue is a huge problem in Duluth. What role does the Human Rights Commission have in proactively addressing the achievement gap?
 - Community Warming Center will be reviewed (internal) by a committee consisting of representatives from the city, county, CHUM and shelter employees
 - Commissioner Kisob asked if the newly appointed Minnesota Human Rights Commissioner Lucero has new goals for the Duluth Human Rights Commission

14. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:15PM

Respectfully transcribed and submitted by Commissioner Huber