

Duluth Human Rights Commission (HRC)

Regular Meeting - minutes

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 @ 5:00pm

City Hall via WebEx

1. Call to Order, Welcome new members
 - a. Meeting called to order at 5:10pm
 - b. Commissioners present: Commissioner Marsha Lue, Commissioner Tyra Jaramillo, Commissioner Carl Huber, Commissioner Sarah Lyons, Commissioner Frances Wittenberg, Commissioner La Sheen Tyacke, Commissioner, Desire' Singer
 - c. Commissioners absent: Commissioner Bettina Keppers (excused), Commissioner Sandra van den Bosse (excused)
 - d. Guests: Human Rights Officer (HRO) Carl Crawford, Human Rights Assistant (HRA) Laura Laaksonen
2. Consent of Meeting Minutes - February 9, 2022
 - a. Motioned to approve by Commissioner Huber; seconded by Commissioner Lyons; approved unanimously by the Commissioners
3. Consent of Today's Agenda
 - a. Motioned to approve by Commissioner Jaramillo; seconded by Commissioner Huber; approved unanimously by the Commissioners
4. Public Comments and Written Comments
 - a. Written public comments submitted prior to meeting
 - i. None
 - b. Live public comments via WebEx
 - i. None
5. Executive Team Report
 - a. Question regarding elections: When are they supposed to be this year?
 - i. Because the elections were held in August, we should be able to have the elections this August. A final answer will come next week
 - b. The team is working on a series of educational workshops, and will keep people posted on updates
 - i. Commissioner Huber requested a listening session for people who have been experiencing racism and hardships in the schools, and advocated for the Human Rights Commission to host a physical, in-person event
 - c. Question about the Redlining Event: Who will be taking the lead and introducing the individual?
 - i. MNPR is also asking to be able to speak with someone from the HRC at this event, as well as possible other news stations. Commissioners Carl Huber and Desire' Singer stated that they would be comfortable speaking to the news outlets
 - ii. Carl Crawford will discuss the logistics of the event with the Executive Team
6. Findings Committee Report

- a. Two cases were discussed:
 - i. A continuation of a case from last month: a man is claiming discrimination from a program that is intended to provide jobs for individuals in recovery from addiction. After Carl Crawford's investigation into the issue, it was found that the man who the complaint has been filed against has a pattern of this specific behavior
 - ii. A complaint has been filed within the City of Duluth offices, this case will be sent down to the state office due to the conflict of interest of this commission also working for the City of Duluth
- 7. Communications Committee Report (Commissioners Lue and Keppers)
 - a. The subcommittee is still working on streamlining the Facebook page through the City of Duluth page, and discontinuing the old HRC commission Facebook page
- 8. Research Committee Report (Commissioners Huber & van den Bosse)
 - a. No updates at this time
- 9. Events Committee Report (Commissioners Lyons & Jaramillo)
 - a. Currently building a document of organizations we would like to reach out to
 - i. Will share this database with the Research committee to find organizations the Communications Committee has missed on this document
 - b. Have a letter drafted that reintroduces the commission to the community and educates community members about how to file human rights complaints
 - c. Events have slowed down due to the pandemic
- 10. Racial Bias Audit Update (Commissioner Lue)
 - a. Met with Chief Tuskan last week, who gave feedback on the RFP. Chief Tuskan suggested that the language be broadened to include more aspects of what the police force does
- 11. Human Rights Officer Report
 - a. It is hard to talk about human rights without talking about Ukraine. It is important as a commission, to pause and think about the impact that war is having here at home as well
 - b. Carl Crawford met and spoke with the new NQT2SLGBIA Commission, and is looking forward to collaborating with them in the future
 - c. Carl Crawford is working with the Black Student Union at Denfeld High School, and has weekly meetings with them
 - d. Carl Crawford continues to work with the Duluth Superior Foundation on the Speak your Peace events
 - e. Part of a panel discussion with the Black Student Union at Marshall High School
 - f. Presented at The College of Saint Scholastica about Black History Month, and how it fits in the curriculum
 - g. We are happy and thankful that the warming center is still open. However, there are still people living out in the elements
 - h. Presented to the YMCA Board of Directors to talk about equity, wellness, and healthcare

- i. The Crown Act has not been passed yet, but has gone many steps. It speaks to the importance of not discriminating against people for their hair: the way they wear it, or the color of it.
- 12. Announcements and Upcoming Events
 - a. Redlining Event on March 15 at 6:30pm (virtual)
 - b. Commissioner Lue requested assistance from the Research Committee for a statement regarding the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide Against Tutsi in Rwanda on April 7, 2022
 - c. The Duluth Aces Group is hosting The Building Resilience Summit on March 26 from 8am - 4pm, and people can register through the Junior League Duluth webpage
- 13. Additional Public Comments and Commissioner Comments
 - a. Betty Greene submitted a public comment about how bills and legislation go through the system. Bills will be passed in late April or May
- 14. Request for Agenda Items for Next Meeting
 - a. Can be emailed to HRO Crawford and HRA Laaksonen
- 15. Adjourn
 - a. Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Tyra Jaramillo, Secretary