

Human Rights Commission
Wednesday April 10th 2024 | 5:30 pm
City Hall Room 430

- Call to Order
 - a) Meeting called to order at 5:35pm
 - b) Commissioners present: Commissioners Lue, Harris, Ostrander, Huber.
 - c) Commissioners absent: Jaramillo-Kraemer, Wittenberg.
 - d) Guests: Community member Kathleen Spencer, Laura Laaksonen (Human Rights Office)

- Consent of minutes: Harris, Ostrander

- Public comments and written comments: None at this time

- Human Rights Officer update
 - Mayor's office is currently working on the job description and must post it for 3 weeks.
 - Administration reached an agreement with Laura Laaksonen to stay on while a new HRO is found.
 - In the interim, complaints will go to Laura. She will then send the complaints to the Findings Committee. Will also push those to appropriate resources or the State as needed.

Legal limitations, Voting against their best interests, tape forums 4 weeks before elections, non-partisan.

- Committee Reports
 - Executive Team
 - Justin Page from the Justice Department in the Twin Cities reached out to see if we'd be interested in the training. This will be in conjunction with the Disabilities Commission.
 - Executive Committee met with Mayor 3/27: Meeting topics included ensuring the HR Commission is represented on the Human Rights Officer committee (2 HR commission members and 2 city council members) 29c-6 (Human Rights Chapter 29c). Executive Committee also advocated that the position not be placed within the City Attorney's office. The commissioners also discussed increasing the number of commissioners. There will be one new commissioner joining in mid-June. Carl Huber completed his two terms and is rotating off the Commission. This will have us at six

commissioners and we still need three more. Mayor Reinhart agreed that the Human Rights Commission can resume with monthly statements on the City's social media.

■ The executive committee had discussion around updating bylaws and posting them online. We will need two meetings to accomplish this process. Commissioner Huber also suggested the Commission make a future meeting topic to review the Human Rights Ordinance.

■ Communications: Deaf History (April), APITA (May), Gay Pride (June)

■ ISD709 May Presentation: invite members of other commissions and city council. Will notify the ISD709 presenters of the invites.

■ Commissioners asked to meet with the City Council for their annual report.

○ Findings Committee (nothing to report)

- Elections

- Chair: Lue nominated (Huber, Ostrander) and elected unanimously.

- Vice-Chair: Ostrander nominated (Huber, Lue) and elected unanimously.

- Secretary: Harris nominate (Lue, Huber) and elected unanimously

- Announcements and Upcoming Events

- Human Rights Officer Report

- No Report

- Additional public comments and commissioner comments

- The commissioners noted they look forward to celebrating Officer Crawford's work and dedication to human rights.

- Request for Agenda Items for next meeting, send to Laura Laaksonen

- Adjourn at 6:28pm

The public is also encouraged to submit written comment to the commission prior to the meeting by emailing humanrights@duluthmn.gov or mailing comments to City Hall at 411 W 1st St, Attn: Human Rights Office Room 434, Duluth, MN 55802. Please note that all public comment is considered Public Data.