

Human Relations Commission
CMO Conference Room
519 Washington
Minutes
January 29, 2018

Meeting called to order by Werksma at 5:30 pm.

Present: Dennis Swartout, Louann Werksma, Jean Reynolds-Provencal, Alyson Brummitt, Rhonda Kleyn, Chloe Weigel, Christian Hudson and Reyna Masko.

Absent: Barbara Lee and Lindsay Hartman

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Swartout to approve agenda with the addition of a report on the diversity forum by Reyna Masko and other business regarding the Accessibility Expo by Reynolds-Provencal, Seconded by Weigel, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Weigel to approve November 2017 minutes, seconded by Brummitt, all in favor.

Welcome Guests: N/A

There was no business under the general call to the audience.

HRC Appointees: Kleyn reported that she reviewed the official ordinance for the commission and learned that non city residents can be appointed to the commission as non-voting members. In September, 2017 a non-city resident had applied to the commission and was turned down, now that the group is aware of the ordinance Werksma stated she will follow up with the applicant to find out if she would still like to be a commission member.

HRC Policy and Procedures: Kleyn reported that she came across old HRC records and found a copy of commission policies and procedures. See attached memo for information provided by Kleyn. The commission decided the policy and procedures were still relevant and would like them made public. Masko made a motion that the forms be added to the City website, it was seconded by Hudson. Kleyn will request the forms be put on the website.

Review of Diversity Forum: December 11, 2017 a diversity forum was held at the Fillmore Complex in Ottawa County. Masko provided the group with some reports showing meeting outcome data. Overall the event exceeded the expectations of the attendees.

Implicit Bias Training Review: All members of the HRC attended a 4 hour implicit bias training on January 6, 2018 sponsored by LEDA. Werksma provided the reports of the outcomes of that meeting. Werksma suggested and the group agreed that it would be nice to communicate with City Council

members that the HRC members attended the training and that the group recommends it to them. All feedback from the event was positive.

Follow up report to Inspire topics: Swartout attended the most recent Inspire event coordinated by and held at Extended Grace. This month's topic was racism. Swartout provided a written report to the group (see attached) about his experience. Swartout reported that he was surprised by the size and diversity of the group. Swartout also reported that the attendees were encouraged to develop relationships with others at the meeting. He and his wife did that and made plans to meet with another couple for coffee. The overall report was that Extended Grace sponsored another great Inspire event. Masko spoke about an event called "The Gathering" that is being held on February 10, 2018 at the Holland Area Arts Council. It is an invitation only event, anyone interested in going should contact Masko for an invite through her.

Old Business

- a. Werksma reported that she followed the recommendation of the HRC and asked to have a meeting with the Mayor regarding the "It's ok to be white" sign posting event that took place in October in the City of Grand Haven. Werksma reported that the Mayor declined a meeting. Kleyn reported that the Mayor sought her out to speak about the request and confirmed that the Mayor did decline saying she did not want to draw attention to an isolated incident.
- b. Werksma presented the annual report she prepared to present to the City Manager and asked for the groups input and approval. The group thanked Werksma for the great report and it was approved with the addition of a couple of 2018 goals. When Werksma provides the report she is going to include the newly discovered policy and procedures and the ordinance.
- c. Werksma presented a diversity and inclusion statement that she would like the group to review and adopt. The group is going to review the document outside of the meeting and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting.
- d. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner next steps. The group brainstormed about the event. Lots of excitement about the event. Kleyn reported the City Manager recommended finding sponsors for the events and that he offered to help in that area. The group has chosen May 11, 2018 as the potential first event. Weigel presented an excellent idea to try to have the event at the Community Center. To stay true to the dinner group size of 12 it was suggested to use the 4 divided rooms for 4 separate dinners but have a short social hour with appetizers in the larger section of the ballroom for all of the attendees. And again, after the separate dinners have the groups come together again for desserts. Kleyn is going to follow up with the City Manager about obtaining sponsors and follow up with Vester Davis about how he would like to begin the coordination of the event.
- e. Brummitt reported that the welcome website page is fully functioning. The goal is to get some pictures to make it more interesting. Hudson is going to invite a photographer friend to take a nice photo as soon as all members can be together.

- f. The group discussed how to more visible and have more exposure. Weigel suggested a GH Tribune article. Hudson stated he can write an article for the GH high school paper. The group wants to have a Facebook page. Werksma is going to contact Vester Davis to discuss communication strategies.
- g. The group discussed the GH Lighthouse Award project that the commission has been responsible for in the past. Typically the winner is announced at the Boards and Commission dinner in April. Kleyn offered to contact the City Manager to find out the process.
- h. A discussion was had regarding follow up to the listening session the group conducted in September 2017. Werksma offered to email the attendees thanking them for attending and letting them know they can officially be appointed as non-voting members.

Kaufman Interfaith Institute dinner event – Tabled to next meeting

Reynolds-Provencal provided information regarding the Accessibility Expo that will take place March 22, 2018 at the Community Center. The HRC is going to have a resource table as well as the Neighborhood Housing Services office. The event is the same day as the March Human Relations Commission meeting. There was some discussion about members attending the expo, ultimately it was decided to hold a regular meeting and the members will not be able to attend the entire expo.

A special meeting was added for February 22, 2018 at 5:30 in the city manager's office. Kleyn will contact city staff to have the public meeting announced.

Motion to adjourn at 7:35 was made by Weigel and seconded by Masko.