

Human Relations Commission
CMO Conference Room
519 Washington
Minutes
March 22, 2018

Meeting called to order by Werksma at 5:35 pm.

Present: Dennis Swartout, Louann Werksma, Alyson Brummitt, Rhonda Kleyn, Chloe Weigel, Christian Hudson, Barbara Lee and Lindsay Hartman.

Absent: Reyna Masko and Jean Reynolds-Provencal

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Weigel to approve agenda, Seconded by Brummitt, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Swartout to approve February 2018 minutes, seconded by Hartman, all in favor.

Welcome Guests: Wes McGee

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

Old Business

- a. Diversity and Inclusion Statement-It was suggested that further research be done. The idea of hiring a consultant was presented to the members. The group was generally not in favor of this at this time. Overall the group felt it could continue the research and development without outside help for now. Werksma will ask Masko, who has volunteered to lead this work, to speak with Ottawa county administrators to learn what process they used when adopting a statement and also to see if City of Holland has a diversity statement and to learn what process they went through, what suggestions they may have. Members Hartman and Swartout will speak with Council members regarding their thoughts about such a statement. Kleyn is going to mail all of the research Werksma has gathered to all HRC members. Members are going to review and plan to talk about at the next regular meeting.
- b. HRC public relations-The HRC Facebook page is created. The administrator will be Vester Davis. Any news to go on the page should be forwarded to Werksma as she will communicate with Vester.
- c. Calvin Terrell workshop follow up-Several HRC members attended at least one of the events at GHAPS. All members believed the events were positive, powerful, moving and inspirational. Hudson believes he has seen a shift in students at the high school. A small group of parents who did not approve of the event voiced their opinions at a school board meeting after the events took place; none had attended a presentation or allowed their children to attend. Despite reservations within the community before the events took place

the feedback received by Commission members from community members has been positive.

- d. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner next steps. Planning meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 7 at Just Goods at 10am. Werksma asked for each commission member to email her names of potential invitees.
- e. Accessibility Expo-In progress during meeting.

New Business

- a. Sponsorship of LEDA summit – A request was made by Commission member Masko that the group asks City Council to sponsor an upcoming LEDA summit. The request and event were discussed. The decision was made by the group to not make the request at this time. The reasons given were that the event is not specific to the City and we should be cautious about that. Also, it is too soon since our previous sponsorship request and we are not a money giving organization.
- b. Other new business – Lee provided Extended Grace updates:
 - i. The next Town Hall meeting is June 25, 2018 and the topic will be alternative therapies.
 - ii. The March 17 Inspire topic of gender roles went well. The event was well attended and they had great diversity on the panel.
 - iii. Lee also spoke about another group she is involved with called Lakeshore Interfaith. They are hoping to have a “Festival of Faiths and Philosophies” event. A sort of community conversation that will follow their town hall model. More info to come.

Next meeting is Tuesday May 22, 2018. Kleyn will post notice of change of meeting date.

Adjourn, motion made by Hartman to adjourn, seconded by Brummitt. Meeting adjourned at 7:25.