

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Approved 11-21-17

The Human Rights Commission met on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society.

Members present were: Shelly Huseby, Jill Benson, Bashir Abdi, Shawn Mueske, Ben Larson, Maria Larson, Marlin Breems, Fernando Alvarado, Richard Engan and Janell Sommers, Administrative Assistant.

Item No. 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Shelly Huseby at 5:00 p.m.

Item No. 2 Public Comment

There were no members from the public present for comment.

Item No. 3 Approve Minutes of Meeting

Chair Huseby presented the minutes of the September 19, 2017 meeting for discussion noting a change was made in the members of attendance. Commission Member Benson moved to approve the Human Rights Commission minutes of September 19, 2017 with the noted change. Commission Member Ben Larson seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 4 Follow-Up Discussion to Law Enforcement Officials Video Recording:

Chair Huseby stated she did meet with Zack Mahboub and gave him the recording from WRAC 8 and he will check into interpreting it and present a bid. The priority is to translate in Spanish first and to have a voice recording rather closed captioning.

Item No. 5 Follow-up to Citizenship Ceremony:

Chair Huseby informed the Commission that they are fully expecting 25 participants in the citizenship ceremony to take place at the Barn Theater and the City has offered to sponsor the reception and refreshments from contingency funds. Chair Huseby asked commission members to consider volunteering to be specifically involved in this event and assist in planning. This item will be discussed again in January or February.

Item No. 6 Update on the Youth Garden Event:

Commission Member Ben Larson stated the pretrial has taken place in relation to the disorderly conduct incident that took place at the YMCA Youth Garden Event and the City has three weeks to respond. In addition they are going to push for criminal destruction of property due to having to discard the vegetables with an approximate value of \$150. It was noted that Commissioner Ben Larson was in contact with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights about this incident and it was indicated it does not fall under their jurisdiction. This was not considered a violent act so it did not classify as a hate crime.

Item No. 7 New Business and Discussion:

Commission Member Benson gave a brief update pertaining to the incident she reported regarding the note left on her garage door after her letter to the editor. All has been quiet.

Commissioner Member Abdi brought forward some concerns expressed to him from members of the Somali community. A topic of concern to the Commission was a change in the Cultural Liaison position at the Middle School. Some parents feel they are not receiving the information concerning issues with their children and that the translator position may have changed or been cut. He stated that the connection that was there with the parents seems to not be functioning now. Chair Huseby offered to contact the school to see what has changed and report back to Commissioner Abdi.

The Commission discussed their position to educate and not escalate. Suggestions came forward to connect with area Pastors and use a bridge concept to allow people to report incidents to someone they know or to the Human Rights Commission. The Commission discussed what types of incidents are happening and how collect the information. It was recommended to contact the Willmar Area Ministerial Association to discuss the tone of some of the incidents happening and a means to provide support and report to the Human Rights Commission.

The next meeting date of the Commission will be Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Sommers
Administrative Assistant