

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Approved: May 15, 2018

The Human Rights Commission met on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 5:15 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society.

Members present were: Shelly Huseby, Jill Benson, Shawn Mueske, Fernando Alvarado, Dale Boxrud, Maria Larson, Ben Larson and Barbara Little.

Item No. 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Shelly Huseby at 5:15 p.m.

Item No. 2 Approve Minutes of Meeting

Chair Huseby presented the minutes of the March 20, 2018 meeting for discussion. Commission Member Benson moved to approve the Human Rights Commission minutes of March 20, 2018 and Commission Member Ben Larson seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 3 Public Comment

There were no other members of the public in attendance.

Item No. 4 Recap of Naturalization Ceremony

Chair Huseby invited members of the Human Rights Commission to share their comments on the Naturalization Ceremony held on April 10th. Commissioner Boxrud commented on the refreshments being a success and how remarkable the speech of Chairperson Huseby was. Thank you was relayed to all who made it a success.

Item No. 5 Recap of Paul Kivel Events

The Commission discussed the responses given from those in attendance at the Paul Kivel speaking event and overviewed a handout presenting things “white people” can do to show social justice work.

Item No. 6 Retirement of Sheriff Hartog

Commission Member Ben Larson brought up the idea of doing a new sheriff forum with the upcoming retirement of Sheriff Hartog and invite the people running for the position to discuss immigration. It was mentioned a good source for doing this would be the League of Women Voters. Commissioner Little offered to approach Jan Dahl about the new sheriff forum.

Item No. 7 Other Business

Commissioner Ben Larson stated he has been in contact with Wendy Foley and one of the projects they are working on is two people going to the Intercultural Development Inventory training and having the ability to train people in Willmar. He questioned if someone within the City would want to go through that training? Commission Member Mueske mentioned relaying this information on to the City’s Human Resource Director.

Chair Huseby stated there are two Commission Members who have not attended meetings for some time. They are Bashir Abdi and Osman Jibril. She has contacted both via email and Osman Jibril responded he is out of town working and at this time cannot continue on the Human Rights Commission. This item will be followed up at the next commission meeting. It was noted an application from a prospective new member should be forthcoming.

Commission Member Mueske brought forth a concern that the City of Willmar Dog Park is not handicapped accessible. The Commission was asked if they felt this should be explored and they would advocate as a commission to the City Council. There currently is no sidewalk or ramp into the park nor is there a concrete platform. Funding and possibly donations to construct improvements were discussed. It was suggested to have City staff prepare an estimate for such improvements for ADA accessibility and subsequent to that to advocate for any potential donors to assist in funding. A letter of support was suggested. This will be reviewed by the Commission at their next meeting.

Announcements included the Somalian Nations Poet event at the Willmar Conference Center on Saturday, April 21st from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. cicenter.org is the website detailing the event.

The next meeting date of the Commission will be Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Benson, seconded by Commissioner Mueske and passed to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Sommers
Administrative Assistant