

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

The Human Rights Commission met virtually on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via GoTo meeting.

Members present were: Shelly Bormann, Vicki Davis, Shawn Mueske, Barbara Little, Jill Benson, Richard Engan, Rebecca Chelen, Nate Erickson, John Salgado and Hamdi Kosar entered the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Item No. 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shelly Bormann at 5:00 p.m.

Item No. 2 Approve Minutes of Meeting

Chair Bormann presented the minutes of the September 15, 2020 meeting for discussion. Commission Member Benson moved to approve the Human Rights Commission minutes of September 15, 2020 and Commission Member Little seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 3 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Item No. 4 Vision 2040 Anti-Racist Statement Review

Chair Bormann informed the commission the Vision 2040 Leadership Anti-racism Statement (attached) was sent to all members in its final version. Vision 2040 is requesting the commission review the statement and consider its endorsement. The members discussed the final version and noted the “we” language at the beginning of several sentences was replaced by action verbs as offered at the last meeting. After further discussion, a motion was made by Richard Engan, seconded by Rebecca Chelene to endorse the Anti-Racism Statement along with the Vision 2040 Group. The motion passed on a roll call of 7 Ayes and 0 Noes.

The Human Rights Commission discussed the desire to be involved with action items moving forward, including: looking at their bylaws, city policies and also more dialog with the police department.

Item No. 5 Use of Force Training Discussion

Chair Bormann informed the members that she, along with members Jill Benson, Rebecca Chelene and Vicki Davis, had attended the Police Department Use of Force Training event in September. Comments offered to members were how the simulator opened their eyes and was very impressive. The department was cooperative, forthcoming with information and open to any questions and would like to hear from the community. Chair Bormann commented on the amount of knowledge that is needed to be a peace officer and another member on it being a military kind of structure. One statistic shared was of the 14,000 calls since January, only 182 of these resulted in hand cuffs revealing the amount of de-escalation used.

Commissioner Chelene discussed her heightened comfort level with being able to talk to a police officer following the training and the desire to continue conversation with Chief Felt regarding

some of her questions. Follow up with Chief Felt and other officers and members of the commissioner is encouraged.

Item No. 6. Anti-Racist Book Discussion

Commissioner Jill Benson led the groups' discussion on a several chapters of the book titled "How to Be an Antiracist." Commissioners discussed some of their personal experiences and how the book has started to provide another lens to look at racism in our community. The assignment for November 17th meeting is to read Chapters 7-12 and to come with a question from those chapters or a link to a policy for discussion.

The next meeting date of the Commission will be Tuesday, November 17th 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