

## **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES**

The Human Rights Commission met virtually on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via GoTo meeting.

Members present were: Shelly Bormann, Barbara Little, Ben Larson, Jill Benson, John Salgado Maldonado, Rebecca Chelene, Richard Engan and Shawn Mueske.

### Item No. 1      Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shelly Bormann at 5:10 p.m.

### Item No. 2      Approve Minutes of Meeting

Chair Bormann presented the minutes of the November 17, 2020 meeting for discussion. Commission Member Benson moved to approve the Human Rights Commission minutes of November 17, 2020 and Commission Member Larson seconded the motion, which carried.

### Item No. 3      Public Comment

There was no public comment. One individual from the public was logged in to listen (Robert Pierskalla).

### Item No. 4      Vision 2040 Anti-Racist Statement Update

Chair Bormann informed the commission that the Vision 2040 Anti-Racism Statement is now live and the City Council did endorse the statement. There are options on the site for individuals to sign the document which will become public on Martin King Luther Day. There is also an area to upload documents and enter personal action statements.

### Item No. 5      Public Health Racism Question

Chair Bormann stated this item will be moved to the next meeting due to a prior commitment that does not allow Commission Member Davis to be present at this meeting.

### Item No. 6.      Anti-Racist Book Discussion – Final Discussion

Commissioner Benson led the groups' discussion on the final chapters of the book titled "How to Be an Antiracist." The group discussed their "high points" of the book. Commissioner Engan spoke in respects to rulers and power in relation to racism or religion.

Commissioner Chelene listened to an audio version of the book and aspects that jumped out to her is the decision makers being a reflection of the population we need every group to have access to resources and the opportunity to engage.

Chair Bormann spoke about policy makers and policies being what make society racist. She related this to City of Willmar policies and the concept of looking how those policies were developed.

Commissioner Little commented on racism she grew up with and how we are all part of it. It's the fiber of our country and we need to self-examine.

Commissioner Benson commented on policy making as well and hoped the Commission can look at our community, work and lives.

Commission Mueske was struck by structural institutional racism and systems being set up that may be racist. He touched on the importance of this commission to move things forward and the policies the City has relating to complaints that violate an ordinance and their policing not to be bias. The commission plans to circle back with the City for an update on these efforts.

The Commission discussed their action plans for 2021. The members were asked to bring their top two items they would like to move forward in 2021. Chair Bormann thanked Council Member Mueske for his time on the Commission and for initiating the restart of the group.

The next meeting date of the Commission will be Tuesday, January 26th at 5:00 p.m. due to the holiday affecting the City Council meeting date.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Sommers  
Administrative Assistant