



**WILLMAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023, AT 5:00 PM
WILLMAR PUBLIC LIBRARY
410 5th St SW, Willmar, MN 56201**

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Election of Officers
3. Review and Approve the January 24, 2023 Minutes
4. Introduction of Pablo Obregon, Director of Community Growth
5. Sheriff Eric Tollefson, County Law Enforcement Perspective
6. Adjourn

WILLMAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES
WILLMAR PUBLIC LIBRARY
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA

January 24, 2023
5:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Willmar Human Rights Commission was called to order by Chair Jon Dahl. Members present on a roll call were Jon Dahl, Richard Engan, Jill Benson, Heidi Ahmann, Allen Clark, and John Maldonado. Absent: Peggy Karsten. Present 6, Absent 1

Also present were Councilmember Vicki Davis and City Operations Director Kyle Box.

After Roll Call, Chair Dahl asked for brief introductions of every member and those presenting.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda as presented.

Motion by Member Engan, Seconded by Member Benson, to approve the minutes with a spelling correction to Member Allen Clark's name. All voted in favor.

Chair Dahl introduced Kelsey Vosika, Executive Director, with Family Promise Presentation. Executive Director Vosika provided an overview of Family Promise and its operations. Vosika discussed homelessness in the Willmar area.

Family Promise has two programs, a Shelter Program, where families are provided services and stay within a Family Promise facility, and a Diversion Program, where services are provided to families, but housing is not available. Family Promise assists families with housing application fees and transportation, among many other things.

Vosika commented that since 2020, 87% of families severed in its program have at least one job, with a large majority having more than one job. These families are low-income and do not have any room within their budgets for any type of accident. Family Promise, a 501c3, is funded by area churches and private donations and does not operate with any government funding.

Vosika commented on the growth of homelessness in rural Minnesota because of the cost of living in metropolitan areas and the difficulties of finding housing for their clients, including the lack of flexibility of landlords, application fees, cost of rent, and overall lack of housing.

Chair Dahl commented that the March 28, 2023, meeting will be the annual meeting for the Human Rights Commission, and the Commission will be tasked with nominating and electing officers for the Commission.

At 5:51 P.M., Motion by Member Engan, Seconded by Member Ahmann, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor.

/s/ Jon Dahl
Chair

Attest:

/s/ Kyle Box
City Operations Director