

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Approved April 17, 2018

The Human Rights Commission met on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society.

Members present were: Shelly Huseby, Jill Benson, Shawn Mueske, John Salgado Maldonado, Fernando Alvarado, Dale Boxrud, Marlin Breems, Richard Engan and Barbara Little.

Item No. 1 Call to Order

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

Item No. 2 Approve Minutes of Meeting

Chair Huseby presented the minutes of the February 27, 2018 meeting for discussion. Commission Member Boxrud moved to approve the Human Rights Commission minutes of February 27, 2018 and Commission Member Engan seconded the motion, which carried. Chair Huseby announced an addition to the agenda of Wendy Foley presenting the Healthy Together Willmar Project.

Item No. 3 Public Comment

There were no other members of the public in attendance.

Item No. 4 Healthy Together Willmar Project

Chair Huseby introduced Wendy Foley, Health Improvement Project Manager with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (BCBS). Ms. Foley overviewed how their project came to be and presented a snapshot of what they see now and of what they see in the future. The work she is doing is through BCBS of Minnesota and their efforts are focused on a partnership with the 56201 zip code. Several years ago BCBS thought of bringing a variety of resources to four or five communities and decided to start with Willmar first. This a five-year initiative with a \$2 million budget and the effort is to move health equity forward specifically in working with the gaps in areas within the community that are experiencing the greatest disparities. Willmar has a lot of unique factors and key things that drew BCBS such as Willmar being an aging community, the increase in diversity and the focus that a lot of greater Minnesota is going to look like Willmar in time. Getting to know Willmar will enable them to learn how these changes are happening and what they can do to partner to help move things forward.

Ms. Foley met with over 80 individuals in one-on-one conversations with a specific lens of equity which resulted in "Willmar Community Conversations." Some shared themes from these conversations were values of family, community, people and health. People wanted to get to know each other and there were a great deal of assumptions about different cultures and generations but with a deep need for connection. It was marked that most of health happens in communities and social factors.

Ms. Foley overviewed the three commitments of BCBS which are supporting existing work, creating a community table and developing a responsive care table. They are partnering with

Willmar because they care about Willmar. The members of the Community Table were chosen to take a look at how we can create more health for more people in Willmar. The Idea Fund was launched and for the first year they have rolled out \$297,000 of funding. The projects have all started in the last three to four weeks and there will be updates on projects with information on the website which is www.healthytogetherwillmar.org.

Discussion was held on the development of an education program to create Community Health Workers and work with clinics to find the value of such a position. She announced the upcoming community event on April 11th of Paul Kivel, an activist and educator who will address how we can work together to create a multicultural society. She touched on Changex which is sponsored by BCBS. They are based in Ireland and Minneapolis and have work going on all over the world. The idea is it is a web-based platform focused on community connectedness and they have templates used worldwide to create everything from intergenerational work to cultural work to community connectedness work that forces us to work together in fun, innovative ways to get to know each other better. She encouraged the Commission to keep their eyes open for community projects.

Item No. 5 Annual Meeting Review of Bylaws and Election of Officers

Chairperson Huseby informed the Commission this is the Annual Meeting of the Human Rights Commission to review bylaws and elect officers. The positions of Chair and Vice Chair are appointed by the Mayor. The three other officers are the Corresponding Secretary, Budget Chair and Member-at-Large. Commission Member Mueske opined the Commission should make the recommendation for the Mayor's consideration. It was the consensus of the Commission to recommend to the Mayor that Shelly Huseby remain the Chair and Richard Engan the Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Commission Member Breems and seconded by Commission Member Alvarado that the current members, Jill Benson as Correspondence Secretary, Shawn Mueske as Budget Chair and Barbara Little as Member-at-Large continue in these positions. The motion passed.

The Commission discussed if there are any additional changes to the current bylaws which were updated in March of 2017 with minor changes. A motion was made by Commission Member Benson to accept the bylaws as currently reviewed and written. Commission Member Little seconded the motion, which carried. It was noted that in the bylaws the absence from meetings is addressed and the Commission discussed the affect this has on having a quorum to hold official meetings.

Item No. 6 Citizenship Ceremony

The Commission discussed the plans in progress and the budget for the Citizenship Ceremony. Chair Huseby outlined the format for the program consisting of opening remarks from the judge, a welcome from Mayor Calvin and herself, the National Anthem sang by 10th grade students, the reading of the list of countries the 25 people originated from, followed by a presentation of the candidates, a motion from the lead immigration officer and the administering of the oath of allegiance by the judge followed by congratulatory remarks and a video of America the Beautiful. A group of Lakeland Elementary students will be helping the judge lead the Pledge of Allegiance followed by dismissal and presentation of certificates. The ceremony starts at 11:00 a.m. and is slated to last 40-45 minutes followed by a reception.

Item No. 7 Other Business

The Commission discussed the upcoming March for our Lives on March 24th and the direction that was given to the Council by the League of MN Cities for any such events.

The next meeting date of the Commission will be Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Breems, seconded by Commissioner Benson and passed to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Sommers
Administrative Assistant