

## **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES**

Approved 5-16-17

The Human Rights Commission met on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society.

Members present were: Shelly Huseby, Barbara Little, Jill Benson, Bashir Abdi, Maria Larson, Ben Larson, Shawn Mueske, Fernando Alvarado and Janell Sommers, Recording Secretary.

### Item No. 1      Call to Order

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

### Item No. 2      Approve Minutes of Meeting

Commission Member Benson moved to approve the Human Rights Commission minutes of April 18, 2017. Commission Member Ben Larson seconded the motion, which carried.

### Item No. 3      Public Comment

There were no public comments.

### Item No 4      Discuss Commissioner Lindsey's Visit:

Chair Huseby announced the main purpose of this meeting was to discuss Commissioner Lindsey's visit of last week and the next steps for the Commission and what, if anything, this Commission should recommend to the City Council. Chair Huseby questioned if the Police Department should be engaged in a discussion or what direction the Commission would like to take. Commissioner Little opined meeting with the Police Department would be a good idea so the Commission can become clear on what the Police Department's intent and portray this to the community. This may reduce the fear in the community of calling for help for fear an undocumented individual in the household may be taken away.

Commission Member Alvarado stated the Commission needs to educate the Council as to what is available through the Minnesota Department of Human Resources in relation to contact offices and make it known that even an undocumented citizen can make a complaint to the Department of Human Rights. He touched on three programs that will be aired on Twin Cities Public Television on the History of Human Rights in June, July and August and requested IT staff look into obtaining these for the local channel.

Commission Member Mueske stated that after hearing Commissioner Lindsey, the statutory city idea seems like a political piece as he heard very clearly that if your local law enforcement takes someone and turns them over to ICE for anything, that would be an overstep of their jurisdiction and would find themselves with a legal dispute with the State of Minnesota. The Commission can clearly advocate that these incidents be reported as the reporting mechanisms are in place. This message needs to be conveyed out to the people in the community.

Chair Huseby felt it important to know what the local law enforcement officials are doing and what their position is. Once the Commission receives a clear message of what they are doing, this needs to be sent out to the community to dispel their fears. It was the consensus of the Commission to invite the local law enforcement agencies (Willmar Police and Kandiyohi County Sheriff Departments) to the next meeting to bring the issues to the table and hold a conversation. The Commission was asked to formulate questions by May 5<sup>th</sup> to be forwarded to the law enforcement agencies to review prior to the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Commission continued the discussion of the legal parameters and involvement of law enforcement and the need to have their input to relay to the general public.

Item No. 5      Other Business:

The Commission discussed the need for an interpreter and if the City designated any money in the 2017 Budget for this type of needs. They also discussed which groups would be invited to a future meeting to “get the word out.” Chair Huseby was designated to contact the Human Rights Department to obtain the U.S. Code § 1357 – Powers of Immigration Officers and Employees for the Commission to review prior to the next meeting.

The next meeting date of the Commission will be Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. A motion was made by Commission Member Little and seconded by Commission Member Ben Larson to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Sommers  
Administrative Assistant