

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Approved: June 19, 2018

The Human Rights Commission met on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society.

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

Item No. 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Richard Engan at 5:00 p.m.

Item No. 2 Approve Minutes of Meeting

Vice Chair Engan presented the minutes of the April 17, 2018 meeting for discussion. Commission Member Mueske moved to approve the Human Rights Commission minutes of April 17, 2018 and Commission Member Breems seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 3 Public Comment

There were no other members of the public in attendance who wished to comment.

Item No. 4 Dog Park Follow-up Discussion

Vice Chair Engan entertained discussion in relation to the Dog Park. The park now features a dog statue donated by the Lions Club and benches. With a service focus in mind, it would seem to make sense that it be handicap accessible for people in wheelchairs who can commonly have service animals. Vice Chair Engan stated he will relay the Commission's discussion to the Lions Club so they are aware. Commission Member Boxrud informed the members he spoke with the President of the Eagles and any member can bring a request to their donation committee once a proposal and costs were determined. Specific gates handles, platforms and expenses were discussed. Administrative Assistant Sommers conveyed to the Commission a conversation with the Public Works Department whereby they are planning to resurface the parking lot and construct walkways up to the gates.

Item No. 5 Sheriff Candidate Forum Follow-up

The Commission reviewed the topic of a new sheriff forum. Commission Member Little reported she was not able to follow-up with Jan Dahl of the League of Women Voters, however Jan believed it was a good idea.

Item No. 6 Commission Membership

Vice Chair Engan read aloud from the bylaws of the Commission the section pertaining to attendance at meetings containing language whereby a member who is unable to attend seven or more consecutive meetings should so submit their resignation from the Commission. Following discussion it was the consensus of the Commission to send a letter to the members who have not attended for over seven consecutive meetings acknowledging they have been missed and thanking them for their service. Commission Member Little offered to compose the letters.

Item No. 7 Summer Meeting Schedule

Vice Chair Engan opened up discussion of the meeting schedule for the summer months. Following discussion it was the consensus to maintain the June meeting on the 19th and cancel the meeting for the month of July. A motion was made by Commission Member Little to follow the consensus of the Commission and cancel the July meeting. Commission Member Alvarado seconded the motion which passed.

Item No. 8 Other Business

Commission Member Alvarado shared a “hate message” he received on his voice mail something about “Somalians are going to kill us, I want you to talk about it at the next council meeting.” They caller left no indication of who they were.

The message of increased traffic during the Ramadan particularly around the mosque was relayed to the neighbors and Commission Member Mueske particularly when they assemble in the evening.

The Commission held a discussion in general regarding the changes in the community and expressed Willmar is lucky it continues to grow. Communication can still be an issue and lamenting on the way the community use to be continues. Looking to the future to what Willmar has to offer from the increased diversity has made it a dynamic town.

The next meeting date of the Commission will be Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Breems, seconded by Commissioner Little and passed to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Sommers
Administrative Assistant