

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

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

Members present were: Shelly Bormann, Vicki Davis, Shawn Mueske, Barbara Little, Jill Benson, Richard Engan, Nate Erickson, John Salgado, Rebecca Chelene, Lilbon Clark IV and Ben Larson.

Item No. 1 Call to Order

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

Item No. 2 Approve Minutes of Meeting

Chair Bormann presented the minutes of the August 18, 2020 meeting for discussion. Commission Member Engan moved to approve the Human Rights Commission minutes of August 18, 2020 and Commission Member Larson seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 3 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Item No. 4 Vision 2040 Anti-Racist Statement Review

Chair Bormann informed the commission the Vision 2040 Leadership has prepared an Anti-racism Statement (attached) and wishes to receive feedback from the Human Rights Commission of any changes/modifications by the end of the week. One thought was to encompass more groups i.e. mentally or physically handicapped. The commission discussed the origin of the acronym BOPIC.

One of the most debated changes was the use of the word “we” at the beginning of several sentences in the statement. It was the consensus of the commission to replace “we” with an action verb or eliminate it all together at the start of each sentence. The suggested changes will be offered to the Vision 2020 Leadership group. Chair Bormann also stated are interested in partnering on educational community events which was well received by the commission as education is one of its main focus points.

Item No. 5 Use of Force Training Discussion

Chair Bormann touched on the Willmar Police Department’s Use of Force Policy that was provided by Police Chief Felt and forwarded to the commission members in June. No questions were raised. She informed the Commission that Chief Felt has invited the members of the Human Rights Commission to attend their “use of force training” at the Law Enforcement Center. Several commission members expressed interest in attending. The training exercise will focus on “shoot” or “no shoot” scenarios with a fake firearm machine recording where the shots go. The training is a planned topic at the next meeting.

Item No. 6. Other Business

Commissioner Mueske informed the Commission that the City is considering a Cultural Liaison/Main Street Coordinator position in the future. Once the job description has been developed

the Commission will be allowed to review for suggested changes and show their support.

Discussion was held pertaining to the Commission's support and endorsement of the anti-racism and the statement provided by the Vision 2040 group questioning of it is thorough enough or if the commission itself should do something additional. It was decided to wait for the final statement and discuss the topic further.

The next meeting date of the Commission will be Tuesday, October 20th at 5:00 p.m. A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Sommers
Administrative Assistant