

## **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES**

Approved: 12-15-20

The Human Rights Commission met virtually on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via GoTo meeting.

Members present were: Shelly Bormann, Vicki Davis, Shawn Mueske, Jill Benson, Richard Engan, Rebecca Chelene, Nate Erickson, and Lilbon Clark. Bethany Lacktorin was also present as a guest participant.

### 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 October 20, 2020 meeting for discussion. Commission Member Erickson moved to approve the Human Rights Commission minutes of October 20, 2020 and Commission Member Benson 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 there are currently no updates to the Anti-Racist Statement as it is still in the process of being placed on the Vision 2040 website. She is participating in a meeting Friday and as soon the statement is on the Vision 2040 website and she will send out an email with a link.

### Item No. 5      Bethany Lacktorin – Questions for Commission

Chair Bormann introduced Bethany Lacktorin who reached out to the Commission from the New London community considering at the possibility of starting a Human Rights Commission. Each member introduced themselves giving a brief background and their interest in being on the Commission. Ms. Lacktorin gave her background and ties to the New London community. She expressed her interest in learning how to educate each other in regard to racism and human rights violations. They have begun the process of forming a Human Rights Commission in New London with the City recently approving the ordinance to form the commission. The group that has been formed is currently working on bylaws based on Willmar's.

Ms. Lacktorin commented on Willmar's Mission Statement and asked for insight into what partnership New London's commission should form to get the word out they exist and how to communicate which services are provided. Chair Bormann stated Council Member Mueske was instrumental in resurrecting Willmar's commission and recommended council support. Law enforcement has also been influential along with the State Human Rights Commission and Vision 2040 Leadership. Council Member Mueske stated Willmar's commission is dedicated to educate, advocate and in some cases mediate. The commission does not litigate and there were some members early on of the perception they could use the Human Rights Commission to make changes. Willmar's commission has mediated some situations and been an advocate for groups concerns and

directed those to the appropriate agency. He stated there is no script and what you may deal with within your city may be entirely different from others. He suggested reaching out to other commissions. The pathway reveals itself and Willmar's commission will be there as a resource. Chair Bormann touched on highlights that resulted from the Human Rights Commission mentioning the Naturalization Ceremony and law enforcement education.

Item No. 6. Anti-Racist Book Discussion

Commissioner Jill Benson led the groups' discussion on the next several chapters of the book titled "How to Be an Antiracist." She briefed the members on a recent presentation done by Dr. Kendi that Ridgewater College students were able to participate in. Commissioners discussed some of their personal experiences in relation to policy. The review of policies of organizations within our community was discussed to be able to suggest ways to adopt anti-racist policies and to come with a way to find elements of power and policy. The assignment for the December 15th meeting is to read Chapters 13-18 and place a post it on the quote that speaks to you and you like the best.

The next meeting date of the Commission will be Tuesday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Sommers  
Administrative Assistant