

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

The Human Rights Commission met on Tuesday, February 27, 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, Ben Larson, 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. Chairperson Huseby acknowledged new Commission Member Dale Boxrud who briefly introduced himself and each member gave brief introductions and shared their interest for being on the Commission.

Item No. 2 Approve Minutes of Meeting

Chair Huseby presented the minutes of the January 23, 2018 meeting for discussion. Commission Member Breems moved to approve the Human Rights Commission minutes of January 23, 2018 and Commission Member Engan seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 3 Public Comment

Jessica Rohloff spoke during the public comment stating she believes there is going to be a suggestion of Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) training offered to City Council members and as a representative of the ISALAH group she offers their support of the idea.

Lydia Maier spoke as a representative of the high school body of a school walkout to protest the violence in American schools and the need for action in Congress following the numerous shootings taking place across our country. On March 24th the community of Willmar will join March for our Lives at 10 a.m. to raise awareness of the school safety issue. She was asking for the support of the Human Rights Commission. It was suggested this be brought before the Council for consideration.

Item No. 4 Recap of Discussion with Senator Andrew Lang

Chair Huseby informed the Commission that she had extended an invitation to Senator Andrew Lang to meet with herself and Representative Dave Baker. They discussed the report from the Mn Council of Latino Affairs and the issues discussed at the previous Commission meeting with Representative Baker. She encouraged Senator Lang to actively listen to his constituents and seek out people who have experience in different fields when issues come up he could be more educated on. She reiterated that the main mission of Willmar's Human Rights Commission is to educate. She also invited him to the citizenship ceremony and he was encouraged by Representative Baker to attend.

Item No. 5 Citizenship Ceremony

Chairperson Huseby updated the Commission on a recent meeting with the Operations Supervisor from the Federal Judicial Court, Debra Bell, came to Willmar and they met with Jan Dahl

from the League of Women Voters and Nikki Dyson from the Barn Theater. They went through what the ceremony is going to be and looked at the layout. There were many logistics to go through and set up. There are 25 people who are going to finish their last step of citizenship that day at 11:00 a.m. at the Barn Theater. What the League of Women Voters is asking of the Human Rights Commission is to host the reception afterward keeping it simple with coffee, juice, cookies. They are asking the Commission to sponsor, host and serve the reception. It was noted the Barn Theater can seat up to about 250 people.

The budget for the reception was discussed with the consensus being to initially use the \$100 from the Unitarian Church. Chair Huseby stated it was her understanding the Commission has \$500 available within the Mayor's budget. Volunteers were sought to work on the logistics of the reception to come up with some dollar amounts and bring to the next meeting on March 20th. Jan Dahl will be attending another ceremony and will come back and assist in brainstorming what we want to do to make it Willmar. Chair Huseby raised the question of two or three volunteers from the Commission who would be willing to take a lead role in the reception. Three volunteers came forward: Barbara Little, Maria Larson and Jill Benson. Several commission members shared their previous experiences at similar ceremonies.

Item No. 6 Other Business

Commissioner Ben Larson announced he has a meeting set up with the IDI group March 6th at 10 a.m. and invited other commissioners to sit in on the phone call to gather information to administer the options of the program.

Chair Huseby informed the group that she sat in on a meeting for Healthy, Together Willmar who is sponsoring the community tables by Blue Cross/Blue Shield on Wednesday, April 11th. There is an author, Paul Kivel coming to Willmar who has a book titled "Uprooting Racism - How White People Can Work for Racial Justice." He will address white privilege and what white people can do to call for justice. One thing mentioned was there are already people in Willmar who are passionate about justice. There is the possibility of four community conversations about curiosity that people may have. There is talk of him starting at the Community Center in the morning. Then the college to speak to students at 11:00 a.m., the high school in the afternoon and then he is set to speak at WEAC that evening from 6-8 p.m. This schedule is subject to change with more information to follow.

It was mentioned the March meeting will be the annual meeting for the election of officers.

The next meeting date of the Commission will be Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Ben Larson, seconded by Commissioner Engan and passed to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Sommers
Administrative Assistant