

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Approved 7-19-16

MINUTES

The Human Rights Commission met on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society.

Members present were: Richard Engan, Jill Benson, Shelly Huseby, Bashir Abdi, Barbara Little, Marlin Breems, Columba Ferdinand, and Lynn Travaglio. Also present were Shelby Lindrud, "West Central Tribune" Journalist and Janell Sommers, Recording Secretary. Absent were Denis Anderson, Shawn Mueske, Abdirahman Abdi Hussein, Abdala Abdulahi Mohamed and Kristal Dahlager who were excused from the meeting.

Item No. 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Richard Engan at 5:00 p.m. A motion was made by Marlin Breems to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2016 meeting. Lynn Travaglio seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 2 Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Item No. 3 Review of Proposed Changes to Bylaws

The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed changes to the current bylaws. It was noted that the Committee would be run by the same parliamentary rules the City follows and noted them to be "The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure" by Alice Sturgis. This change will be made to the proposed bylaws and the vote will be delayed until the next meeting.

Item No. 4 Discussion of Ms. Wexelbaum's Input

Commission Member Barbara Little informed the Commission that she spoke with Ms. Wexelbaum after the meeting and was given contact information with some people who work with the LGBT flag group in St. Cloud as a resource.

Commission Member Marlin Breems commented that the one thing Ms. Wexelbaum felt was a success for the St. Cloud Human Rights group were the Educational Forums on topics. These were programs they sponsored for the public. One example was the one held on Homelessness where they had 90 people in attendance.

Discussion was held as to the how to enlighten people on the different heritages and ethnic foods. The use of the Community Center was discussed as a place to have something fun and interesting, possibly something similar to what was called the Festival of Nations at Kennedy School in the past. Comments were made on what events have been held by the Vision 2040 groups.

Item No. 5 Interpreter Concern

Commission Member Bashir Abdi brought forward an interpreter concern he is aware of at the Kandiyohi County Family Services. He stated the hours they have a Somali interpreter available are on Tuesdays from 1-4 p.m., Wednesdays from 8-11 a.m. and Thursdays from 1 - 4 p.m. and many individuals are not able to get their concerns addressed as the lines are long. It was the consensus of the Commission to bring this concern up when Commission/Council Members Denis Anderson and/or Shawn Mueske are present to seek direction.

Item No. 6 Term Length

The term length for Abdala Abdulahi Mohamed was not established at the prior meeting where the others were set. The Commission was informed of the resignation of Columba Ferdinand from the Commission whose term was through the end of the year. A motion was made by Commission Member Lynn Travaglio to assign the available one-year term to Abdala Abdulahi Mohamed. Commission Member Marlin Breems seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 7 Miscellaneous

Commission Member Marlin Breems suggested keeping a list of possible educational forums as ideas come up. Commission Member Jill Benson brought forward for consideration the topic of identification for undocumented people. The Immigration Law of 1996 was discussed and how it is almost impossible to become a citizen under this Federal law.

Gaining some visibility of the Human Rights Commission was talked about. Willmar Fests was tossed around for future as there is not enough time to put something together for this year's celebration. Including churches or places of worships were considered for gaining visibility of the Commission.

Discussion was held pertaining to the relationship of the Church and the Mosque. Commission Member Bashir Adbi offered to ask the Representative of the Mosque to attend the Commission's next meeting for a general understanding.

The Commission discussed the next meeting date and it was noted it would conflict with the week of Willmar Fests. Commission Member Barbara Little made a motion to cancel the June meeting and set the next meeting date for July 19, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. with a representative of the Mosque present. Commission Member Lynn Travaglio seconded the motion, which carried.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Sommers
Recording Secretary