

## **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES**

Approved: August 21, 2018

The Human Rights Commission met on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society.

Members present were: Jill Benson, Shawn Mueske, Fernando Alvarado, Barbara Little, Dale Boxrud and Shelly Huseby.

### Item No. 1      Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Shelly Huseby at 5:00 p.m.

### Item No. 2      Approve Minutes of Meeting

Chair Huseby presented the minutes of the May 15, 2018 meeting for discussion. Commission Member Boxrud moved to approve the Human Rights Commission minutes of May 15, 2018 and Commission Member Benson seconded the motion, which carried.

### Item No. 3      Public Comment

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

### Item No. 4      Sheriff Candidate Forum Follow-up

Chair Huseby updated the Commission on the Sheriff Candidate Forum. The League of Women Voters met at noon today and there are three candidate forums that are scheduled before the primary: July 31<sup>st</sup> County Commissioner candidates (7:00 p.m.), August 7<sup>th</sup> Mayoral candidates (6:30 p.m.) and Sheriff candidates at 7:30 p.m. All will be held at the Willmar Municipal Utilities building. Those who filed for election are being sent a letter and respond if they are willing to attend the candidate forum.

The Commission discussed having an interest in being involved specifically in the Sheriff Candidate Forum and taking a second look at the questions previously used for the Law Enforcement WRAC presentation. The questions will be sent out via email and commission members can select their top five to narrow it down for the League of Women Voters.

### Item No. 5      Commission Membership Update

Commissioner Little drafted letters of appreciation for their time served on the Human Rights Commission to both Bashir Abdi and Osman Jibril for Mayor Calvin's signature. The letter was read to the Commission and members thanked Commissioner Little. Chair Huseby updated the members that Hamdi Kosar's appointment was approved by the Council, but she was not able to be in attendance today.

### Item No. 6      Other Business

A flyer of a future Home Dedication through Habitat for Humanity was shared with the members who were encouraged to attend.

Commissioner Mueske informed the group he will be attending a preconference workshop sponsored by the League of Minnesota Cities titled "Building More Welcoming Inclusive Communities – City Leadership to Advance Race Equity." He will offer any information to the Commission at an upcoming meeting. He also mentioned that at the City Council meeting yesterday they approved putting forward some training opportunities for staff and a suggestion specifically made was cultural competency training.

Commissioner Boxrud stated he and Commissioner Maldonado attended the Iftar event. He met the Imam, had dinner with him and established a future friendship.

Discussion was held on Human Rights Commission participation next year during the Willmar Fests events and making a presence.

Chair Huseby reported that a representative from Goodwill International in Washington, DC is coming to visit St. Paul. She received a call from this person indicating they are the diversity inclusion officer for Goodwill and she keeps reading about Willmar in reports and the work being done with immigrants and refugees in the past ten years. It is planned she will come and meet her.

Commissioner Mueske updated the Commission on the improvements to the dog park. He met with Public Works Director Christensen and reviewed the plans that include repaving the parking lot. When they do that they plan to do the sidewalks as well with them being twice the width of a normal sidewalk with a pad on the inside. The gating mechanism will be reviewed as well when the project comes up. It is not set to happen this year but probably could happen next year.

Community announcements were given to include: Downtown Willmar Cultural Week including Somalian Independence Day on 7-1-18 and the Rockin' Robbins concerts starting on July 17<sup>th</sup> for four consecutive Tuesdays.

The next meeting date of the Commission will be Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Benson, seconded by Commissioner Little and passed to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Sommers  
Administrative Assistant