



Minutes
CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Thursday, March 24, 2022
6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

Present: Chair Carlson, Zayic, Sandison, Kamen, White, Welvaert, Hubbard, Filmore, City Staff Elise Durbin

Absent: Vice Chair Haga

2. Adopt Agenda

Motion: Commissioner Welvaert

Second: Commissioner Hubbard

Motion: Carried

3. Approve Minutes

4A. Approve February 24, 2022 Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Kamen requested a change to state she is from Maryland not Maine. Commissioner Carlson requested changes on page 5 under 7A, Recap of MLK Breakfast, to Girl Scout troop number 15554; and under 7B, 5th line from bottom, delete sentence to show the strategic plan was previously worked on.

Motion: Commissioner Sandison

Second: Commissioner Hubbard

Motion: Carried

4. Treasurer's Report

5A Treasure's Report

Durbin stated one additional invoice was paid in February for the name plates. Chair Carlson did not see any additional donations on the report and wondered if there were more. Commissioner Hubbard questioned if there is a way to see the donations that have come in. Durbin stated she will look into both of these requests.

Motion: Commissioner Hubbard

Second: Commissioner Kamen

Motion: Carried

5. Old Business

5A Green Card Voices

Commissioner Zayic explained there will be a full display for the month of April. There will also be a showing of "Through the Iron Curtain" on April 14th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Two of the actors in the documentary will also be guest speakers.

Commissioner Sandison stated April 21st will be a panel of immigrants, hopefully most are Chaska residents, to discuss moving and living here in Chaska.

Commissioner Zayic suggested a partnership with the public library regarding books on this topic. Chair Carlson also suggested putting together a list of books the Commission may be interested in purchasing and communicating that with the library. Chair Carlson mentioned the Green Card Voices website has a list of books that speak to the subject of immigration and the Commission could gift them to the library.

Commissioner Welvaert wondered if the Commission could view the list. Commissioner Zayic has added more books to the list and suggested printing them out. Durbin will share it with all Commission members and noted to let her know if members, on their own, want to donate books. Chair Carlson stated donated books should be in "good condition." Durbin said the city has put together a website connected to Green Card Voices and will use social media to promote the events.

Chair Carlson said Chaska Rotary has been notified their \$250.00 to sponsor Green Card Voices will be mentioned. Commissioner Hubbard reminded the Commission to thank and acknowledge Chaska Rotary so people are aware and able to donate again. Chair Carlson mentioned getting the Rotary logo. Durbin stated the logo can be added later after the webpage and social media promotion is up and running.

Commissioner Sandison wondered about interpreting for those who do not speak English, but realizes it is a difficult subject to navigate.

Commissioner Welvaert suggested putting this out on social media to see if anyone would be interested in interpreting for this event. Commissioner Zayic cautioned against using a student as an interpreter. Commissioner

Zayic suggested a recorded version and have it translated. Durbin will look into this and will follow up with Commission.

5B Calendar/Programs

Chair Carlson said she is on the Calendar/Programs Committee. Commissioner Zayic had questions regarding this Committee and will inquire at a later date. Commissioner Hubbard suggested putting something on the calendar about veterans.

5C River City Days

Commissioner Hubbard had nothing to bring forward.

5D Website

Chair Carlson had nothing to bring forward.

5E MLK Human Rights Celebration

Commissioner Welvaert had nothing to report and if the Commission has any ideas, send those ideas to Durbin.

6. New Business

6A. Empathetic Response Committee

Chair Carlson stated the Commission heard from three individuals inquiring about a statement regarding the war in Ukraine. Commissioner Filmore looked at other statements and wondered what direction the Commission wanted this statement to go. Commissioner Welvaert appreciated the sentiment that this is a global issue. Chair Carlson agreed when this statement is completed, it would be put on the City's channel, the Human Rights Commission webpage and submitted to the *Chaska Herald*. Chair Carlson noted once the motion to approve the letter is granted, Wright will post it on all social media accounts.

Commissioner Sandison suggested adding language such as "any available platform" and "to speak out about injustice". Commissioner Hubbard suggested consistency in potential letters the Commission puts out. Commissioner Welvaert encouraged statements stay consistent with only human rights violations. Commissioner Filmore suggested being proactive not reactive when it comes to human rights concerns.

Commissioner Welvaert questioned if an empathetic response has to be approved by City Council before it is published. Durbin stated it does not have to be approved. Commissioner Sandison stated there are any

number of human rights issues going on at any given time and wondered what stand the Commission wants to take. Commissioner Sandison also suggested creating guidelines for human rights discussion items. Commissioner Kamen questioned how to include residents' opinions on the definition of the Human Rights Commission.

Chair Carlson noted people are looking for ways to support the people of Ukraine. Commissioner Zayic agreed there should be a set of criteria or a system to determine what or when we make a statement regarding human rights violations. Durbin believed this will be extremely helpful and can help the committee when making a decision. Commissioner Kamen stated she will help on this Committee. Commissioner Hubbard noted the Commission is changing and hopes the voices of the Commission will be heard by increased community engagement and community presence.

Motion to approve the statement with Sandison's additional language:
Hubbard
Second: Kamen
Motion: Carried

7B. Pride Celebration Committee

Chair Carlson provided an update from Vice Chair Haga that she will be bringing information to the April meeting in addition to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

7C. National March for Education

Commissioners Filmore discussed different ways to celebrate educators in our district. Commissioner Zayic wondered if the Commission would be interested in organizing a space for students to discuss school related issues. Commissioner White stated there is not a lot of conversation in the schools but noted it would be easy to find students who are passionate about these issues and willing to speak about them. Chair Carlson encouraged the Commission to find positive solutions and directed further guidance to Durbin.

Durbin clarified the purpose of this Commission is to understand, inform, and educate the public on human rights issues. Chair Carlson suggested at River City Days, making the Human Rights Commission booth an opportunity to educate the public about issues being seen in other states and what Minnesota and District 112 are doing to increase awareness.

Commissioner Welvaert reiterated the purpose of this Commission is to offer information and provide resources for people who want to know

more. Commissioner Sandison inquired again regarding the statement about Ukraine. Commissioner Hubbard wondered how to get the community more engaged and interactive.

Commissioner Sandison encouraged celebrating the good that teachers are doing while simultaneously raising awareness. Commissioner Filmore also suggested a way for students to express the good things going on in Chaska such as videos on social media. Commissioner Hubbard encouraged a diverse group of people included in these videos.

Chair Carlson summarized the discussion and will create opportunities to raise community awareness around these topics. Chair Carlson wondered if any members knew anyone in the community we could reach out to.

Chair Carlson would like to continue this discussion to next month's meeting and send any other ideas or thoughts to Durbin.

7. Next Meeting Date

7A. Chaska Celebrates Immigrant Voices April 14 and April 21, 2022

Commissioner Welvaert wondered if we wear t-shirt or name tags during the events in April. Durbin will check on status of the t-shirts. Chair Carlson mentioned the opportunity to listen to and learn about what is happening in Ukraine.

Commissioner Zayic inquired about sharing information on personal Facebook pages. Durbin said Kevin Wright will put something together that states dates, times, etc. on the City's social media page, which then Commission members can share on their personal social media accounts.

7B. April Human Rights Commission Meeting April 28, 2022

Chair Carlson thanked everyone for the great conversations.

8. Adjourn

Motion: Commissioner Welvaert

Second: Commissioner Sandison

Motion: Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.