



Minutes
CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Thursday, July 28, 2022
6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

Present: Carlson, Hubbard, Welvaert, Haga, White, Sandison, City Staff Durbin

Absent: Commissioners Kamen and Zayic

2. Adopt Agenda

Motion: Commissioner Sandison

Second: Commissioner Welvaert

Motion: Carried

3. Open Forum/Guest Presentation

3A. Guest Presentation – Mary Hernandez, Veva Garcia, and Yuni Montoya from Mi Casa

Ms. Hernandez presented information on Mi Casa. Much of the presentation discussed furthering engagement in the community with the help of the Human Rights Commission.

Emilia Gonzalez Avalos, executive director of Unidos MN, spoke about the struggles of the Latino community. She discussed main topics such as citizenship, immigrant justice, occupational segregation, jobs, education, and mental health. She encouraged more help, support, and communication from local level government.

Vice Chair Haga thanked them for the presentation and questioned what the Human Rights Commission can do to support this program. Ms. Hernandez suggested helping with the food shortage and working together to get youth involved. Ms. Avalos reiterated the need for basic necessities such as food, housing, health (mental health), and jobs.

Commissioner Hubbard questioned what roadblocks have people in the Latino community encountered with regard to getting a driver's license. Ms. Avalos stated there are approximately 90,000 undocumented immigrants who have

been in the State for about nine years. She also informed the Human Rights Commission on the difficulties that come with not having an identification card.

Commissioner Hubbard inquired about using public transportation. Ms. Hernandez stated language and time constraints can be difficult to manage. Commissioner Hubbard noted that the Human Rights Commission is not able to help with the driver's license issue but can point them in the right direction. Ms. Hernandez believes the Commission can help.

Commissioner Hubbard suggested connecting with the Chaska Chief of Police and State Representatives in order to build relationships and have conversations about these concerns.

Vice Chair Haga stated Sheriff Kamerud has a group called Crucial Conversations and suggested Mi Casa become part of this group to encourage these types of conversations.

Commissioner Welvaert thanked them for the presentation and looks forward to seeing more information from them and determining how this Commission can help.

Commissioner Sandison commented the purpose of the Human Rights Commission is to educate. Commissioner White questioned what small ways she can help as the youth representative. Ms. Avalos reiterated the use of identification and how high schools are tracking the number of undocumented students.

The conversation continued around driver's licenses and identification cards. Commissioner Hubbard suggested other ways to get to places such as walking or taking public transportation.

Vice Chair Haga suggested an avenue to help would be to create a smaller group, generate a list of ideas, and bring those ideas back to the Human Rights Commission for further review. Chair Carlson stated the Human Rights Commission is willing, has talent and skill, and can be beneficial to Mi Casa and will look for information from them.

Commissioner Hubbard questioned if they had any ideas about how to include the Latino community into the discussion surrounding the Community Center Master Planning process.

4. Approve Minutes

4A. Adopt Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2022

Correction: Chair Carlson noted a misspelling that Durbin already corrected

Motion: Vice Chair Haga

Second: Commissioner Hubbard

Motion: Carried

5. Treasurer's Report

5A. Treasurer's Report July 2022

Durbin reported on the HRC's expenses for the year, including new line items of books purchased for the Carver County Library and the Pride Celebration. Two donations were received helping the Commission stay within budget.

Commissioner t-shirts were purchased, of the River City Days' budget was approved and there was \$150.00 left, leaving an overall commission balance of \$2,235.31.

Durbin also noted the preliminary Human Rights Commission budget included \$5,000. Commissioner Hubbard suggested asking for more due to inflation. Chair Carlson agreed and commented donations have made events possible. She suggested asking the City Council to increase our budget to \$6,500 due to inflation.

6. Old Business/Committee Updates

6A. River City Days

Vice Chair Haga stated River City Days starts tomorrow. Commissioner Hubbard stated they have 1,000 popsicles to give away and other treats and toys for the wheel. He inquired about a photo flip book versus a digital version. The Commission reviewed hours of coverage for their booth and Durbin stated she will be around to fill in where needed.

6B. MLK Human Rights Celebration

Commissioner Welvaert will meet Monday to discuss speakers and mentioned to the Commission to email Durbin before Monday if there are any other people to add to the list. Vice Chair Haga noted she was not notified of the meeting and could not recall if she was on this committee or not. Commissioner Welvaert commented that she would like the help.

6C. Immigrant Voices

Chair Carlson had a good discussion on community partnerships and found the Chamber of Commerce to be a good source of support. They had a meet and greet with the Chamber at the Green Card Voices event. During that meet and

greet, the Chamber expressed their desire to be more active with the Human Rights Commission. Commissioner Sandison said they are starting the discussions about a video and stated Commissioner Zayic will meet with Kevin Wright in late August to discuss the video.

6D. Pride Celebration

There was nothing to report.

6E. Strategic Plan

Vice Chair Haga reviewed the plan noting the changes included: making the words more broad regarding Chaska Cares, adding an empathetic response piece, and including the Chaska Pride Picnic. She also suggested an annual review of the Commission in order to track attendance, relevancy, review of events and programs, and then bring a report to City Council.

Chair Carlson plans to request some time with City Council to present a review of this year and to provide the Council with a general list of activities that are planned for 2023. Commissioner Hubbard suggested a succession table to track when people come and go.

Vice Chair Haga recommended accepting these changes.

Motion: Vice Chair Haga

Second: Commissioner Welvaert

Motion: Carried

Commissioner Welvaert commented on the idea of an annual report and thinks it would be a great addition.

6F. Empathetic Response

There was nothing to report.

6G. Calendar/Programs

There was nothing to report.

6H. Website

Vice Chair Haga will meet with Wright on the functionality of the website and the particular platform the city uses. She will work on that before the August meeting. Chair Carlson added Kindness 112% is now on the website.

Commissioner Sandison inquired where people can drop off school supplies after River City Days. Durbin stated she will collect at City Hall.

6I. HRC Logo

Chair Carlson discussed the idea of an updated fresh logo for the Human Rights Commission. Chair Carlson spoke to Cindy Anderson with Carver County Arts Consortium and discussed two possible options; contract with a commercial artist to design a new logo or partner with Human Rights Commission and set guidelines, and put it out to artists and schools. The Human Rights Commission held a robust conversation about both options.

Chair Carlson suggested a small stipend or award for the selected logo. Commissioner Welvaert suggested making it open to the public and advertise it on social media. Chair Carlson believes the Consortium does not oppose opening it up to the public. Commissioner Hubbard suggested paying a designer and taking that off our to-do list. Commissioner Sandison agreed it needs to be updated and likes the idea of involving more people in the community.

Vice Chair Haga suggested payment in the form of the stipend and Commissioner Hubbard subsequently suggested raising the budget to compensate for this stipend. He also suggested representing all of the different communities within Chaska when the design phase of the logo begins. Chair Carlson will reach out to the Arts Consortium and get back to the Commission.

7. New Business:

7A. There was no new business but Commissioner Hubbard stated he will have a Community Center Master Plan update in September.

8. Next Meeting Date

8A. August Human Rights Commission Meeting – August 25, 2022

9. Adjourn

Motion: Vice Chair Haga

Second: Commissioner Hubbard

Motion: Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.