



Minutes
CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Thursday, August 25, 2022
6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Carlson, Hubbard, Welvaert, Haga, Zayic, Sandison and City Staff Elise Durbin

Absent: Commissioners Kamen and White

2. Adopt Agenda

Motion: Commissioner Welvaert

Second: Commissioner Zayic

Motion: Carried

3. Open Forum/Guest Presentation

3A. Carver County Public Health/Communities of Belonging-Pat Stieg

Pat Stieg with Carver County Public Health provided a slideshow describing the Communities of Belonging initiative and noted it is part of the Community Health Improvement Plan is updated every 5 years. Mr. Stieg discussed the mission, the living room couch conversation approach, sense of belonging, critical elements of health, and the difference between belonging versus fitting in. He also noted there are 8 other communities that are trying to get this initiative started. He emphasized that each city has a different way to approach this initiative and there is no wrong way to do it.

Commissioner Zayic agreed with the concept of the living room conversation and emphasized honoring differences as well as similarities. Mr. Stieg stated differences play an important role in this process. Carver County wants to support each community however they can.

Commissioner Zayic questioned the specificity of support. Mr. Stieg noted there are funds available to help get the initiative off the ground.

Commissioner Hubbard inquired if a Human Rights Commission member could be a liaison for this initiative. Commissioner Sandison inquired about the people who

have already volunteered to do this. Mr. Stieg noted it is usually a pretty wide variety of people that join this group. Commissioner Welvaert described a previous meeting where they discussed this and a very broad range of people provided interesting ideas.

The Commission discussed meetings with the Police Chief and Sheriff about current issues facing different minorities within Chaska. Vice Chair Haga noted the Human Rights Commission did start a Community Partnership Committee which could be used to work on this initiative.

Commissioner Hubbard stressed the Human Rights Commission can make a big impact by being present and putting this out there for the entire community.

Chair Carlson questioned how this initiative can be launched and next steps. Mr. Stieg stated there will be a meeting next Monday on zoom. This meeting will provide more information.

Durbin noted this would not be led by City staff. City staff are already working on the Chaska Cares Initiative and this would be too much on their plate, nor does City Staff think they should be leading it, but did mention they would support and participate. Commissioner Zayic noted she will be able to participate in the meeting and suggested the Commission provide their questions and concerns to her.

Commissioner Sandison questioned if there are measurable outcomes or metrics the County Public Health Department is looking for. Mr. Stieg stated the County will measure this by using a community health assessment.

Commissioner Zayic inquired about funding for the living room conversations. Mr. Stieg noted the County has funding available to train people to become hosts for this topic.

4. Approve Minutes
 - 4A. Adopt Meeting Minutes – July 28, 2022Motion: Vice Chair Haga
Second: Commissioner Zayic
Motion: Carried
5. Treasurer's Report
 - 5A. Treasurer's Report August 2022

Durbin reported as of last week, no further expenses have been documented since last month. The Commission has approximately \$2,200 dollars left in their budget. She did mention a budget of \$6,500 is added into the preliminary budget the City Council will look at and vote on. Commissioner Sandison inquired about any outstanding invoices from River City Days. Durbin stated she is still waiting for the rest of the receipts from River City Days. Commissioner Hubbard stated yes, there are still some outstanding invoices and he will get them to Durbin as soon as possible.

Motion: Commissioner Sandison

Second: Commissioner Welvaert

Motion: Carried

6. Old Business/Committee Updates

6A. River City Days

Chair Carlson shared her thanks for all the help at the booth and noted the game was a big hit. Commissioner Sandison shared conversations she had with many people about what the Human Rights Commission does. Commissioner Welvaert stated this River City Days was the most fun one yet and noted there are other opportunities to engage in more serious conversations and it was nice to have some fun.

Chair Carlson suggested the art work from the Pride Event be framed or put on display and have it visible in the community. Chair Carlson wondered if the City could help. Durbin noted she will come back to the next meeting with some options after she researches this.

The Commission discussed previous art work or projects done and where they are stored. The Commission suggested putting previous art work up at different events hosted by the Commission. Creating a calendar of events was another idea to organize the Human Rights Commission's events.

The Commission also discussed creating a needs list for next year and should think about ordering it within the next few months. Commissioner Hubbard and Sandison volunteered to research different swag for next year's River City Days and will get back to the Commission at the next meeting.

6B. MLK Human Rights Celebration

Chair Carlson received two speaker recommendations from Commissioner Zayic. Chair Carlson noted the difficulty communicating with the two recommendations. Commissioner Zayic added she will talk to one of them tomorrow and check on the status of the speaking engagement.

The Commission is still looking for other members to join the MLK breakfast. Commissioner Hubbard suggesting putting a limit on the number of outside people involved.

Commissioner Hubbard also suggested taking on Black History Month and Women's History Month.

6C. Immigrant Voices

Chair Carlson suggested planning soon if the Commission would like this program to continue. The Commission suggested asking local organizations for sponsorship and donations. Commissioner Zayic will meet with Kevin Wright, the city's Communication Manager, Monday and suggested bringing in a founder of immigration reform from Washington D.C. to create a series of questions the Commission could choose from and provide recordings of Chaska residents that were immigrants. She will keep the Commission updated.

6D. Pride Celebration

There is nothing to report.

6E. Community Partnership

Vice Chair Haga noted the Committee will meet and provide an update at the next Human Rights Commission meeting.

6F. HRC Logo

Chair Carlson did informal interviews asking citizens what key words define the Human Rights Commission. She stated the most popular words were; grows, welcomes and creates partners, cultivates and embraces, and inclusiveness.

Chair Carlson explained last month the Commission discussed paying for the logo change. She explored that opportunity, believes it removes the community piece, and recommended the Human Rights Commission not pay for an updated logo but rather put it out to all residents of Chaska and choose a winner that would receive the funds.

Commissioner Zayic questioned if a deadline would be necessary. Vice Chair Haga suggested a three-month timeline starting in October and going through December. Commissioner Sandison suggested a publication of the winner in the *Chaska Herald*.

The Commission discussed an appropriate dollar amount and using the word stipend and scholarship. Commissioner Hubbard suggested a \$500 amount. Durbin also suggested changing the timing of it so the stipend amount would be given in January 2023 when the Commission has a larger budget.

Commissioner Welvaert made a motion to change the stipend dollar amount to \$500 for the winning logo design.

Motion: Commissioner Welvaert

Second: Commissioner Hubbard

Motion: Carried

6G. Strategic Plan

There was nothing to report.

6H. Empathetic Response

There was nothing to report.

6I. Calendar/Programs

Chair Carlson suggested a work plan for each month to increase the Human Rights Commission's organization.

6J. Website

Vice Chair Haga will have an updated website by next meeting.

7. New Business:

There was no new business.

8. Next Meeting Date

8A. August Human Rights Commission Meeting – September 22, 2022

9. Adjourn

Motion: Commissioner Welvaert

Second: Commissioner Hubbard

Motion: Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.