



Minutes  
CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
Thursday, September 22, 2022  
6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

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

Absent: Commissioners Kamen and Haga and Hubbard

2. Adopt Agenda

3. Open Forum/Guest Presentation

3A. Latino Voices – Gracia Lozano

Ms. Lozano is looking to expand the non-profit organization Latino Voices. This organization provides immigrants with community resources like language support, understanding barriers, culture language accessibility and assistance with documentation. She provided information about the upcoming “ofrenda” which is a celebration of ancestors. This has previously been done on a small scale and Ms. Lozano would like this celebration on a larger scale in order to educate people on culture and diversity. She is looking for an approximate budget assistance of \$800-\$900 and the dates will be October 28th-November 4th.

Commissioner Welvaert questioned if she had a venue for the event and what the role of the Human Rights Commission would be. Ms. Lozano replied they are looking to have the presentation in the Arts Consortium space and refreshments and a children’s activity in the Chaska Community Center. The role of the Commission would be to help market and construct the alter and participate. Commissioner Zayic suggested celebrating a variety of different cultures’ loved ones and will put this event on her Facebook account.

4. Approve Minutes

4A. Adopt Meeting Minutes – August 25, 2022

Motion: Commissioner Welvaert

Second: Commissioner Zayic

Motion: Carried

5. Treasurer's Report

5A. Treasurer's Report September 2022

Durbin reported no changes since the August report. There is approximately \$2,200 left in the budget. She stated City Council approved their preliminary levy September 12 which included a \$6,500 budget for the Human Rights Commission. She noted the expenditure for the logo winner will likely take place in 2023 and would be budgeted there.

Motion: Commissioner Sandison

Second: Commissioner White

Motion: Carried

6. Old Business/Committee Updates

6A. MLK Human Rights Celebration

Commissioner Welvaert stated the committee met and confirmed the celebration will take place on January 16, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. She provided a short bio on the guest speaker, Dr. Timothy Berry, a Vice-President for Faculty Affairs and Equity Initiatives at the Minnesota State University-Mankato. There has been help on this committee from the Parks and Recreation Department as well as community members. She noted advertising for this year's award will include all social media accounts. Commissioner Welvaert inquired about a submission deadline date. The Commission discussed and agreed to move up the deadline to December 14, 2022, and the award will be decided on December 22, 2022. Chair Carlson mentioned the incorrect information on the website and stated that Kevin Wright is working on the updated website.

Commissioner Welvaert made a motion to approve a \$300 honorarium for Dr. Timothy Berry to be the keynote speaker at the MLK celebration.

Motion: Commissioner Welvaert

Second: Commissioner Sandison

Motion: Carried

6B. Immigrant Voices

Commissioner Zayic noted Immigrant Voices will meet again on October 11 and suggested the event going forward be a month long, weekend only, celebration of different immigrant groups. It would be called Cultural Heritage Month. She will provide a timeline and more information at the next Human Rights Commission meeting. Commissioner Sandison suggested this event be held outdoors because she has seen increased event population when it can be held outside.

6C. Pride Celebration

There was nothing to report.

6D. River City Days

Chair Carlson noted the swag for this event should be purchased in 2022 for the 2023 event. Commissioner Sandison stated she and Commissioner Hubbard will be more active regarding the purchasing of swag for this event.

6E. Community Partnership

Commissioner Zayic said she is looking forward to being a part of this committee and stated the next meeting will be October 7<sup>th</sup>. She said the Committee is still determining what the "Community of Belonging" means and continuing to progress. The group is looking to retain more members and receiving feedback from the community.

Chair Carlson brought up the idea that Human Rights Commission members receive training as living room conversation facilitators and asked about the cost, training time required, and expectations. Commissioner Zayic will provide more information and email Durbin.

6F. HRC Logo Update

Chair Carlson stated guidelines are set and submissions will be allowed October 1-November 30 with the award in the amount of \$500. The winner will be decided at the December 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Chair Carlson mentioned advertising for this in the *Chaska Herald* and Commissioner Welvaert volunteered to reach out to them and will email Chair Carlson with the information.

6G. Strategic Plan and Annual Action Plan

There was nothing to report.

6H. Empathetic Response

There was nothing to report.

6I. Calendar/Programs

Commissioner Zayic noted they are looking at celebrating Women's Month in March and would appreciate suggestions on speakers.

6J. Website

Durbin shared Vice Chair Haga's email update, stating she met with Wright and he will schedule member's individual photo with a short bio attached. The deadline for bio is October 7<sup>th</sup> and Durbin will send a reminder email.

7. New Business:

7A. Proposal from Latino Voices

They are requesting a monetary donation. Chair Carlson commented this aligns with other similar events from the Human Rights Commission.

Commissioner Zayic made a motion approving the donation of \$800 to the Latino Voices for help with their upcoming event.

Motion: Commissioner Zayic

Second: Commissioner Welvaert

Motion: Carried

Commissioner Sandison questioned what surplus money would be spent on. Ms. Lozano clarified the surplus, if any, would be used to create more youth activities and provide a presentation in the schools. Commissioner Welvaert inquired about the Human Rights Commission helping out with the construction of the alter and any other needed assistance. Ms. Lozano will follow up with the Commission regarding dates.

8. Next Meeting Date

8A. August Human Rights Commission Meeting – October 27, 2022

9. Adjourn

Motion: Commissioner Welvaert

Second: Commissioner Zayic

Motion: Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.