



Minutes
CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
ONE CITY HALL PLAZA, CHASKA CITY HALL
Thursday, November 21, 2019
6:30 PM

1) Meeting called to order at 6:30.

Roll Call

Present: Spreadbury, Leggett, Dunbar, Carlson, Welvaert, Bean, White

Absent: Scarborough; Haga

2) Adopt Agenda

Motion: Carlson

Second: Leggett

Carried.

3) Open Forum/Guest Presentation

Jenna Cruz, one of the Leaders of ROAR has been in touch with Chain Reaction Theater Production who has partnered with Launch Ministry in the past. ROAR has partnered with the theater to do a showing of a play titled, "White Privilege" on Friday, May 15th in the evening. She noted that the play has been well received by many audiences. Cruz has scheduled the Chaska Community Center for the play to be shown in May. Cruz is requesting \$227.50 in funds for the permit to support the production. Cruz noted that the goal is to draw sixty to eighty people. Cruz noted that the play would be rated PG-13. Leggett asked whether Cruz has seen the play, she said she has not. Leggett asked if there is a way to see the play before it is shown. Cruz responded she would look into the possibility but not sure at this time. Dunbar asked about where the cost comes from. Cruz noted the cost is for reserving and using the CCC Community Room. Cruz noted that the hope is to have School District and City leaders attend. Cruz is working on marketing (Facebook, etc.) and will be reaching out to city leaders along with members of ROAR. Carlson asked whether this would be one showing, Cruz confirmed one event. Dunbar asked about whether admission is charged. Cruz noted that there would not be an admission charge. Dunbar asked about payment for actors. Cruz replied the only financial cost is for the space. Kabat asked whether any other funding sources are being pursued. Cruz stated that the HRC is the only one being asked. She clarified that ROAR would fund the event if no other sources are made available. Leggett stated that this event sounds like a nice continuation of the Race: Power of an Illusion series. Leggett noted that this would be a way to educate the community about what white privilege is. Bean stated her agreement with Leggett. Spreadbury asked whether the group would want to see more information about the show before formally supporting. He suggested that the Human Rights Commission may want to be very clear on its understanding of the show. Commissioners discussed

Spreadbury's questions and decided they as well as Spreadbury are comfortable with moving forward with the motion.

Motion: Carlson made a motion to support the ROAR organization in providing "White Privilege" to our community on May 15, 2020 and our financial support to bring this effort would be \$228.00.

Second: Bean

Motion Carried

4) Approve Minutes (September 26th minutes)

Motion: Carlson

Second: Leggett

Carried.

5) Treasurer's Report

Kabat summarized the staff report. For the months of Oct/Nov no new expenses, remaining balance is \$1,546.69. Question from Welvaert asked if there was any expenses from the Race of Power of Illusion. Kabat replied the expenditure has not been made yet, it is available, and they are committed to it. Nate expects to see this for December's meeting.

6) Old Business

a) Recap: "Race: Power of Illusion" community viewing/conversation.

Welvaert asked the Commission to share their thoughts about the event. Carlson noted that she wondered the first evening whether attendance would increase and was pleased to see that happened. Carlson noted the excellent discussions and ideas for forward action. She stated Stacey Nelson-Kumar did a great job organizing the event. Bean noted the community input was fabulous and said she learned a lot. She appreciated the assistance of Mr. Palmer to facilitate and stated she would like to see the Commission do more like this. Welvaert noted that the second event was done with a tabletop discussion because Mr. Palmer was unable to attend. She noted that this format allowed for some interesting conversation with people who brought very different perspectives. She noted that she has learned a lot by watching the video series. Leggett stated that he attended the second session and participated in the table discussion. He stated that the discussion was very good and provided an opportunity for learning for everyone. He noted that some people realized that based on the video they realized that they feel misled by what they had been taught before. Welvaert noted that she heard many people saying they would like more events like this and that they are interested in "what's next." She stated that people have expressed interest in seeing more opportunities made available. Dunbar noted that she learned a lot and would like to see the video series again to continue learning from them. Dunbar wished that more City officials would have attended. Carlson noted that Matt Podhradsky was there with his children at the third session, but she too would have liked to see more representation by City and County officials. Welvaert recognized several teachers and

school staff attended. She noted the District intends to use the DVDs for staff training in the future. Commissioners were all in agreement that it was a great event.

b) Update: MLK Breakfast Planning

Carlson provided a summary of MLK Breakfast (January 20th) by summarizing the memo included in the Agenda packet. White provided an update that the Jazz Band is committed to participating and needs logistic information to understand details. Carlson presented the concept that an honorarium for Dr. Josie Johnson would be appropriate and recommended an amount of \$200. Leggett summarized Dr. Johnson's legacy. Bean clarified that the nominees of the Human Rights Award should be recognized at the event. Dunbar clarified that the event will be recorded. Leggett recommended that Dr. Johnson be educated about recent events in the community, so she has that context. Kabat noted he is going to make every effort to try and have expenses allocated to this year's budget since we have dollars available.

7) Motion to approve \$200 honorarium for Dr. Josie Johnson: Leggett

Second: Dunbar

Motion approved

8) New Business

a) Human Rights Award – Name 2019 Recipient

Welvaert summarized the work session ahead of the meeting to review the five nominations received. The nominees were Faith Blackstone for her work with Black History 365 Uncensored and Learning Links. Chuck Lieber for his work with Families Moving Forward, Meals on Wheels and conversations with Friends. Stacey Nelson-Kumar for her work on Race: The Power of Illusion to the City, and Barbara Colhapp for her years of community leadership in the City of Chaska. Welvaert noted the great accomplishments that have occurred over the course of the year and mentioned that people can be nominated again if they are not selected this year. She also noted that all nominees will be recognized at the MLK Breakfast in January. Welvaert read a summary of the nomination for Barbara Colhapp, who is the recipient of the 2019 award.

Motion to nominate Barbara Colhapp as the Chaska Human Rights Award Winner:

Dunbar

Second: Carlson

Motion carried.

b) Update: Marnita's Table "Celebrate!" event – December 5, 2019

Kabat shared the City of Chaska staff have been working with the school district, Welvaert and a couple parents to plan this event. Marnita's table is a nonprofit organization that holds these types of events with the desire to bring communities together to have meaningful dialogs over a meal. Event will be from 6 to 9 at the event center, there will be food representing different cultures. People will have the opportunity to learn about other cultures and have the opportunity to sit and have discussions over meals. Marnita's Table is present to bring guidance on certain topics.

This is the first of two events, second will be some time in February of 2020. The goal here is to identify themes and hopefully set us up for next steps. The idea here is we are in the center of the holidays and everyone celebrates holidays in different ways. This gives us the platform to talk about holidays as well as other topics. We are hoping for a broad audience and to enjoy an evening as a community with good conversation. Welvaert expressed that she is impressed by how accessible the event will be by being free and offering food that appeals to all dietary needs. Welvaert noted that people are asked to RSVP but anyone can show up regardless. Welvaert noted that transportation can be provided by noting the need on the RSVP. Dunbar asked whether she can come for a portion or does it need to be for the entire time. Welvaert clarified that people can come for any amount of time. She also noted that childcare will be available for anyone who needs it. Kabat stated he sent out an invitation to all the committee and requested to personally invite people to attend. Flyers have been distributed as well as invites. The event is a joint event with City of Chaska and the School District.

c) Education Opportunity: Green Card Voices

Kabat explained the project is similar in approach to the Transfer of Memory exhibit we were all involved with however this is focused on immigrants and refugees. It has a portrait of an immigrant or refugee primarily people who live in the Twin City area and greater MN. The project has about 20 different displays to choose from. The idea is to have the portrait displayed, story and a QR code you can scan with your own device so you can hear the person telling their story. Kabat thought it would be a great opportunity to utilize the gallery space at the Chaska Community Center. Suggested to have the display for a one-month time frame. For an additional cost they do have other events which the commission can explore. Example; panel discussions, smaller groups can come talk with refugees, interact with school and business groups, etc. Kabat noted he has worked with staff at the CCC and the only available time frame is in August of 2020. Kabat is recommending to firm up reserving for August of next year. Cost for the month is \$1,000.00. Kabat recommends pursuing other groups to help with the cost. Kabat wanted to share and answer any questions regarding this project and if enough interest he would develop further. Carlson noted that she saw this exhibit along with other committee members at a FairTrade Fair in Excelsior recently and noted she was very impressed by the exhibit. Carlson noted that it sparked some discussion in her family and suggested that this would be a great opportunity for our community. Carlson noted that several people shared their stories at the event she attended. She suggested that an educational component should be included with the exhibit, not just the banners. Leggett stated that he agrees that programming should be included with the exhibit in order to share the story of the tremendous value that immigrants and refugees bring. Leggett stated that he wouldn't support just the cards on their own. People should be actually learning over a 4-week period. Welvaert stated she would like to learn more about the Story Stitch activity that is highlighted on the staff report. Kabat will find out more and will invite Julie to come in December for a guest presentation to help understand. Dunbar wondered whether another City would want to partner to split hosting the display for a two-week period to split the cost. Kabat will explore the idea if that could be an option.

9) Other Business:

Carlson and Spreadbury requested business cards. Kabat stated if anyone wants business cards he will look into the format and get back to anyone with what info they want on the cards. Carlson asked which Commissioners would be up for reappointment for 2020 and what the application process is. Kabat has explained to Welvaert and Leggett the process. Applicants are invited to the first council meeting in January for an interview and council will go through the process.

10)Next Meeting Date – December 19, 2019

11)Adjourn

Motion: Carlson

Second: Leggett