



AGENDA
CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
ONE CITY HALL PLAZA, CHASKA CITY HALL
Thursday, February 27, 2020
6:30 PM

- 1 Roll Call
- 2 Adopt Agenda
- 3 Open Forum/Guest Presentation
 - 3A Dr. Keith Brooks, Director of Equity and Inclusion, ISD 112
 - 3B Elizabeth Harner, Director of Adult Learning and Professional Development, SouthWest Metro Intermediate District 288
- 4 Approve Minutes
 - 4A Draft minutes of the 23rd of January Human Rights Commission Meeting
- 5 Treasurer's Report
 - 5A Treasurer's Report - 2020
- 6 Old Business
 - 6A Discussion: Council Joint Work Session and Officer Positions
 - 6B Discussion: 2020 Goals and Theme
 - 6C Recap: Marnita's Table "Engage!" Event, February 18
 - 6D Update: Green Card Voices
- 7 New Business
 - 7A Form 2020 Committees - River City Days, MLK Breakfast, Others?
- 8 Next Meeting Date – TBD - Joint Work Session with City Council
- 9 Adjourn



Minutes
CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
ONE CITY HALL PLAZA, CHASKA CITY HALL
Thursday, January 23, 2020
6:30 PM

1 Meeting called to order at 6:31. Roll Call – Present: Welvaert, Carlson, Bean, Haga, Spreadbury, White, Scarborough: Absent: Dunbar

2 Adopt Agenda Motion: Carlson, Second Haga. Carries

3 Open Forum/Guest Presentation - None

4 Approve Minutes

4A. November 21, 2019 Human Rights Commission Minutes
Motion: Haga, Second Carlson.

5 Treasurer's Report

5A. Treasurer's Report – December reimbursements, community center reservation. MLK event center service charge, Race Power of Illusion reimbursement. Balance at the end of 2019: \$807.93.

Welvaert: Had earmarked some money for farmer's market, didn't work out with some dollar uncertainty. Continue to look for opportunities to support community events next year.

Kabat: Have incurred some expenses in January related to MLK event. \$170.10 from Red Bench. El Paisano \$52.50. Juice \$22.45. HRC plaque, \$70. Balance as of January 23, 2020 is 1,684.95.

Spreadbury: Honorarium? Kabat is working on paperwork needed from Dr Johnson. Paperwork would need to be received, working through that. Would come out this year.

Motion: Carlson, Second White.

6 Old Business

6A. Discussion: MLK Breakfast Recap

Welvaert thanked everyone. Best year yet. Good community feedback, including those who couldn't attend and watched online.

Incorporate Carlson feedback. Bean echoed similar thoughts. Today's Chaska Herald has a good article on the event.

Welvaert: For planning piece, very important we have a final meeting a week prior to event to check off all boxes and make sure everything's covered. Food options – some people just don't eat pastries. Originally the plan had been to offer fruit but that slipped through the cracks with staff turnover. Next year incorporate fruit for event.

Carlson: Number ordered seemed right. Very few pastries left over.

Welvaert: Event center staff said attendance was 240.

Welvaert: Work something out with Dunn Brothers – as this has grown, amount of coffee we're asking for has more than doubled. Some coffee was left over.

Kabat: Let's have a discussion with Dunn – maybe they want to sponsor. Unless this becomes the marquee event – if it continues to grow the way it has and the HRC wants to do other things we're going to have to go out and talk to other organizations about sponsorship. Hard to meet the bar that Dr. Johnson set with her keynote.

Carlson: Initially SW Metro offered to go out and find sponsors. Could potentially approach Chamber members and other businesses in Chaska.

Welvaert: Next year should have chairs around the room, so people can sit.

Kabat: Helpful to invite Krista from Events Center to be part of planning and be in those meetings moving forward.

Welvaert: Need to start planning soon for next year's event.

Carlson: asked for commissioners to start thinking about who to approach for next year, echoing sentiment that it will be hard to top Dr. Johnson.

6B. Update: Green Card Voices

Kabat: Refreshed commissioners on nature of exhibit – photos of individuals and stories – committed to August of this year being in the gallery space at the community center. \$1000/month to host exhibit. HRC suggested might be willing to contribute \$500. Has had some conversations to see if there might be other donors who can support.

There is also programming that can accompany the exhibit. Optional. They can work with members/participants to do panel discussion with community. Somewhat similar to Transfer of Memory. Other opportunities for engagement with the program. These are an additional \$200-\$500. First focus is to make sure exhibit is paid for fully. If we can go beyond that, would be fantastic. Talking with library to see if they can do a display in support of the exhibit.

Carlson: History Center will be doing an exhibit called "Why Chaska" that looks at why people over the generations have selected Chaska as their home. Talked about partnering with Latino Voices, who came to a meeting earlier in the year, to help develop some stories about those who have immigrated to our community over the last 20 years.

Welvaert – could someone from Green Card Voices come out to an HRC meeting? Maybe we could invite potential sponsors to hear from them at that time.

Spreadbury: Anything we can do to help support?

Kabat: If you have connections to individuals or businesses and want to approach that would be awesome.

6C. Update: Marnita's Table "Engage!" Event February 18

Welvaert relayed event details. Will focus on being involved with the community. A feast like the last time, great time to talk with neighbors and think about ways we can support each other.

Kabat will forward invite, encourages commissioners to extend personal invitations to community to join.

Welvaert stressed accessibility, free, come and go as you need, etc.

Carlson – when she called, she pledged to bring 10 people – if you're thinking about encouraging others, make sure planners know. What happens after Marnita's Table?

Kabat: Talking about that now. Meeting with local boosters, trying to identify ways to continue to support and keep this moving forward. Training on February 7th, 10-4 at CCC. Staff from city, school district going, some ROAR members attending. Introductory training on how to do a Marnita's Table-style event. Not going to be ready to do one but have some good insight into how this works. One more spot for HRC members if people are interested.

6D. Review Attendance Expectations

Three meetings a year aren't really a big deal, more than three than we need to talk about whether it's working out in terms of schedule, etc. Make sure Nate/Jen know if you are not able to attend.

7 New Business

7A. Discussion: 2020 Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer

Welvaert would prefer to table this until next month. Would like to talk about the roles and then make it a quick agenda item next month and just vote in candidates.

Kabat walked through traditional roles. Suggested the other thing to think about is that with Leggett's spot being open, an alternate is moved into the vacated position. Usually that's who has the most seniority, but both alternates were appointed at the same meeting. Scarborough volunteered to stay on as alternate, Spreadbury will fill in position vacated by Leggett.

Motion: Carlson, Second Haga. Approved.

Kabat noted that now we have a vacant alternate position, and no current applicants. Appointments can occur at any point in the year, so please encourage anyone who might be interested to apply.

Kabat will continue as Treasurer and will also take on the secretary duties.

Carlson suggested that commissioners review the roles and responsibilities and come back in February with a decision.

7B. Discussion: 2020 Goals and Theme

Welvaert: Previous years, equity, race, housing and homelessness. Gives us a roadmap to guide us as we identify activities.

White: asked about perhaps we can promote the census. Welvaert will connect with Dunbar when she's back to see if there's anything coming up that we should be aware of.

Kabat: Where the theme has been on display, the clearest has been at RCD booth, census will be done by then.

Bean: A lot of the work seems to be around connecting and engaging, getting to know each other.

Carlson: Wouldn't want to walk away or say we solved the equity issue. Likes a theme, but to say we have a new topic suggests that we've moved on and everything's fine.

Scarborough: What if community education was our topic and pulling in ways we can maximize our funding and getting different groups together to lift-up different voices.

Spreadbury: Frankly, ties back into census.

Scarborough: Understanding, engagement.

Kabat: As you're thinking through over the next month and come up with ideas, send to him and will compile and share at February meeting.

Carlson: One of the things we talked about last year was partnering with District 112, and I know in extended ways we've done that, are there other ways for the HRC to partner with the district that we haven't done yet that could be pulled into yearly activities?

Welvaert: Some commissions have a student rep on their commission – would be very valuable to have a young person on this commission to provide a different perspective.

Kabat: Parks Board does, provides a precedent. Will follow up with City Council.

Carlson: Mayor looked so proud in pic with FB team, wouldn't it be great if they were that proud of work of commission? How can we be more engaging so citizens of Chaska know that we exist and can be helpful to organizations who have been in the news.

Welvaert: Would offer an opportunity for students to shine in different ways.

8 Other Business

9 Next Meeting Date - February 27, 2020

10 Adjourn 7:39PM. Motion: Carlson, Second Spreadbury.

**STAFF REPORT
CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
February 27, 2020**

Subject: **Treasurer's Report - 2020**

Prepared By: Nate Kabat

Balance and Expenditures:

2020 Beginning Balance:	\$2,000
January 2020 Expense	
-MLK Red Bench Bakery	\$170.10
-MLK El Paisano	\$52.50
-MLK Juice	\$22.45
-Lester Dahlberg, Human Rights Award Plaque	\$70.00
February 2020 Expense	
None	\$0.00
Balance: February, 2020	\$1,684.95

STAFF REPORT

CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

February 27, 2020

Subject: **Discussion: 2020 Goals and Theme**

Prepared By: Nate Kabat

For the past couple of years, the Human Rights Commission has identified a theme which has been used to guide activities for the year. As an example, the theme has been used to develop materials for the annual River City Day's Booth. The theme in 2018 was Affordable Housing and the theme for 2019 was the 2020 US Census.

At the January 2020 meeting, the Human Rights Commission began discussing theme ideas. Although a number of ideas were discussed, a final theme was not identified. The Commission decided to revisit the topic at tonight's meeting and use the month to brainstorm. Over the last month, two Commissioners have submitted ideas to me. Those ideas submitted are listed below:

Commissioner Bean:

Goal: to bring unity and find avenues for community members to feel "seen" and welcome in Chaska.

Since we are an "educate the community" Commission-- maybe we can gather and list Volunteer opportunities that can be found in Chaska. Volunteering is a great way to reach out and meet people in Chaska. Volunteering encourages people to get involved (in Chaska) in a way that is new to them.

Some short slogan ideas:

- Unity Builds Community
- Caring Creates Community
- Hello, Neighbor!
- Hi, My Name Is _____
- Chaska: Opening Minds, Opening Hearts, Opening Doors
- Stronger Together

Commissioner Spreadbury:

Regarding theme for the year, an idea I had was "Many Faces, One Chaska" – I feel like this might encapsulate a lot of our themes of equity, engagement, census, etc...

STAFF REPORT

CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

February 27, 2020

Subject: **Update: Green Card Voices**

Prepared By: Nate Kabat

Background

The Chaska Human Rights Commission has expressed support of partnering with Green Card Voices to host a traveling exhibit at the Chaska Community Center in August 2020. The exhibit explains the stories of immigrants and refugees living in the Twin Cities to help build understanding and community. In addition to displaying the traveling exhibit, programming can also be provided to deeper dialogue and education on the topics of immigration and refugees.

The cost to host the traveling exhibit for the month is \$1,000. Additional programming can include a panel discussion, community book read, and interactive story stitch card game. Each additional activity is approximately \$200 which provides a minimal stipend and contributes to travel costs for Green Card Voices members to provide the event or activity.

The Human Rights Commission has expressed interest in identifying funding partners to develop community support for hosting this beneficial exhibit and accompanying activities.

Staff will provide an update on progress to identify funding partners.

Also, Julie Vang from Green Card Voices has agreed to attend the May 28 Human Rights Commission meeting to explain the exhibit and activities in more detail and answer any questions. This could be an opportunity for potential partners to join as well, so they can learn with us.