



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

1. Roll Call

Present: Dunbar, Carlson, Welvaert, Bean, Haga, White

Absent: Spreadbury, Scarborough

2. Adopt Agenda

Motion: Haga

Second: Carlson

Motion Carried

3. Open Forum/Guest Presentation

3A. Discussion to Reconnect

Commissioner Welvaert thought it would be a good time to see how everyone is doing since the Feb meeting and if anyone has topics we need to address or bring up. Commissioner Dunbar mentioned the small group meeting with Kabat, Commissioner Bean and Commissioner Carlson. Commissioner Dunbar curious if we could see if we could ask Council to move our budget over to next year since we did not get the opportunity to spend it. We have projects we still would like to fund but not sure about timeframe.

Kabat - the budget that is decided for any given year for Human Rights and other projects is decided during the budget process which will roll out in August. This will play out further when Council approves the 2021 budget which happens end of November early part of December.

Kabat feels we could discuss this at the Joint Council Work Session in August. The budget does not come until approval happens but now is the right time to be asking questions.

Commissioner Carlson noted as an individual member of the commission, not speaking on behalf of the Commission, she is disappointed the Commission did not respond to the letter submitted via Nate from the ROAR Organization. Commissioner Carlson believes that when individuals write an official letter to an organization such as ours this requires a response. Disappointed we did not official respond back. Commissioners Dunbar and Welvaert agree with Commissioner Carlson. Commissioner Welvaert agrees a response of some sort should have been done in a timely matter. After further discussion, Kabat feels the response should come from the Human Rights Commission not a staff person. Kabat, Commissioner Welvaert and Commissioner Carlson will work on a response letter and send to the entire Commission for approval before sending out. The Commission would like the letter to address the following:

Thank you ROAR – We appreciate your feedback and will continue to invite your feedback, will take your ideas and will be meeting with City Council in August. Address that it was the Commissions mistake for not responding back in a timely matter. Commissioner Welvaert agrees and feels the Joint Session will help to give us some direction. She feels unclear what is within our scope of what we can and cannot do.

Joint Meeting Session with Council – Before meeting session, Commissioner Haga would like to individually encourage who as a Commission we want to be and what we want to do. Be prepared to advocate for ourselves, do not want them to be able set the terms. The Commission agreed with Commissioner Haga.

Commissioner Carlson wanted to discuss the format for future meetings, live versus the Zoom platform? The meeting with City Council she realizes will be in a social distancing room at the event center but future meetings going forward will we continue in Zoom format or live meetings? Commissioner Welvaert talked to Kabat and Council does meet at the Event Center and we could consider this option. The Zoom meeting tonight and at the Chambers was a requirement that Commissioner Welvaert and Kabat were in the Chambers. After further discussion and the ability to have public engagement by Zoom, the consensus was to hold future meetings by Zoom and will revisit this option from time to time.

4. Approve Minutes

- a. Motion: Carlson
- b. Second: Dunbar

Motion Carried

Voice vote was completed, Kabat called roll and asked each member individually to approve the minutes from February.

5. Treasurer's Report

Kabat reported since February nothing has changed – no new expenditures, we did have in Feb some money committed to a few things. \$200 stipend remained to be paid to Dr. Josie Johnson which is pending due to her lack of response for paperwork not being returned but the offer still stands. \$500 committed to green card voices – \$500 unlikely for this year. Remaining balance is 1,684.95 available to the commission for this year. Commissioner Welvaert noted the white privilege could not be at the CCC, and the money has been refunded. Commissioner Dunbar questioned if Dr. Josie Johnson does not accept the \$200, can a donation be made in her name? Kabat explained payments from the city must be made for an exchange of a service, therefore a donation cannot be made. Commissioner White noted the importance to see if we can roll over to next year.

6. Old Business

- a. Update: Green Card Voices

Sub-Committee, Kabat and Commissioners Dunbar, Bean and Carlson met to discuss what makes sense for this year? CCC is not actively programming the gallery currently. No events are being held in the community room or theatre. The Committee agreed not to have the event this year but to pursue in the future, the committee does have an interest. Green Card Voices are doing remote options. Kabat would need some time to research this option.

- b. Update: MLK Breakfast Committee

Sub-Committee, Kabat and Commissioners Welvaert, Haga and Carlson met to talk about what the MLK event would look like on Jan 18th, 2021. The Event Center is available and reserved. Under the governor's restriction, the event center can hold 85 people as a max. The committee came up with 3 options to proceed. (1) Would allow fully on zoom. (2) Fully at Event Center (if safe and follow restrictions). (3) Hybrid model could come in person or zoom. Next steps would be to connect with the CHS jazz and CHS speech team. Committee feels it is necessary to have line of communication open to them. Also discussed to think about who some keynote speakers we could invite. Talked about what the

SW metro chamber role might look like this year. Good idea for the future to pursue relationship to explore partnerships. As this event grows it comes with more financial pressure. Commissioner Haga suggested a 4th option would be to hold at the Chaska Hight School using a larger venue with no school that day. Commissioner Carlson reported she already contacted CHS about the Jazz band and if they are interested or can think of a way to be able to have music at this event. She left a detailed message to return her call. Commissioner Welvaert mentioned this may not be an MLK breakfast, may just be an MLK program not to include food. This is a non-school day so may have more options this year. Kabat will work to set up a Sub Committee meeting for this event. Commissioner Carlson would like to ask if the committee could forward contacting speakers early to see availability for 2021. Commissioner Welvaert noted this event is still 6 months away so great opportunity to work on once we have more concrete details with the state due to COVID. MLK event has been a great event and she loves seeing it grow. Would like to continue even if it is not how it has looked in the past.

c. Update: River City Days Committee

Kabat reported RCD would have been held in July, given COVID now, RCD is targeting the last weekend on September 25th-27th. Kabat anticipates a decision to be made the middle of August. The question remains does the HRC want to participate in hosting a booth this year? After much discussion with the committee members the consensus was to not participate this year. Kabat will schedule a meeting with the Sub-Committee after the August Joint Session with City Council. Commissioner Haga will start a draft letter for the sub-committee to be able to work on to send to the editor for the paper explaining why the HRC did not participate this year.

7. New Business

a. August Meeting: Joint Council Work Session

Kabat reported the Joint Council Work Session with the City Council and HRC was scheduled for April. Due to the governor's shelter in place, this work session did not take place and is re-scheduled for August 27th at the Chaska Event Center starting at 6:30. The preferred way to have this meeting is in person. Plenty of room at the Event Center for distancing and will be wearing masks. If you feel this does not work for you, please do not hesitate to contact Nate directly.

Richard Fursman and Irina Fursman are scheduled to help with this meeting. They have worked with other meetings such as Council and other departments for strategic planning for the city.

Commissioner Welvaert noted the facilitators were to reach out to each committee members before the meeting to be able to discuss concerns, ideas, and goals we each have. Kabat will provide contact information to the Fursman's to have that conversation. You may get an unknown number so please listen to the message. Commissioner Carlson asked if Council will also be contacted prior to this work session. Kabat responded yes, they will be contacted as well.

Kabat wants the committee to know the intent is to bring both groups (City Council and HRC) together.

- Improved working relationship between the City Council and Human Rights Commission
- Shared understanding of roles, responsibilities, and objectives.
- Shared expectations of how the City Council, City staff and HRC members can all support success of the identified roles, responsibilities, and objectives

Commissioner Welvaert met with Chief Ryan Seibert to invite him to an HRC meeting and build a relationship with the Chief. Commissioner Welvaert decided at this time to hold off after the August Work Session to have a more defined identify of the HRC. Commissioner Welvaert would also like to meet with other committees to build relationships and to discuss what are some of the city's goals, ideas, and missions to work together.

Kabat expressed the conversation with the Fursman's is an opportunity to really share what you want to see happen and hope to be. This will be a confidential conversation. Kabat wants to make it clear that everyone should feel comfortable and sees no reason not to share any information. Commissioner Dunbar asked if the Joint Work Session will be recorded? Kabat responded no, work sessions are not typically recorded. Consensus from the Committee is that the members are looking forward to this meeting.

8. Next Meeting Date – August 27, 2020 (At the Chaska Event Center)

9. Adjourn

- a. Motion: Carlson
- b. Second: Bean

10. Kabat led the roll call