



Minutes
CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Thursday, February 24, 2022
6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

Present: Chair Carlson, Vice Chair Haga, Zayic, Sandison, White, Welvaert, Hubbard, Filmore, City Staff Kevin Wright

Absent: none

On zoom: Kamen

2. Adopt Agenda

Motion: Commissioner Haga

Second: Commissioner Welvaert

Motion: Carried

3. Welcome and Introduction for New Commissioners

3A. Public Meeting

Chair Carlson discussed the attendance policy. City Staff Wright mentioned the City of Chaska declared a local emergency, members are allowed to participate via zoom but once the local emergency has been lifted, Commissioners are required to attend in person. Chair Carlson also mentioned masks are not required but are wearing them until COVID numbers decrease. She also noted to new members red light means the meeting is recorded.

3B. Live Meeting – Zoom, Community Cable and or YouTube

3C. Quorum Policy

Chair Carlson defined the quorum policy stating 4 or more members together is defined as a meeting. If there is an event where all members want to attend, let the staff liaison know. River City Days will be posted as an open meeting so as to not violate the attendance policy. City Staff Wright stated the email policy applies when replying to the whole group. Commissioner Filmore wondered, as an alternate, if this applies to her also. City Staff Wright stated yes, she still counts as a Commission member.

3D. Open Meeting/Introduction of New and Old Members

The Human Rights Commission members provided a brief introduction of themselves.

Commissioner Filmore stated she moved to Chaska for her daughter's figure skating, has an autoimmune disease, and said she slept today.

Commissioner Hubbard stated he has been on the Commission for 18 months.

Commissioner Welvaert stated she has lived in Chaska for 17 years, has 2 daughters in college, and been on the Commission for 6 years.

Commissioner Kamen noted she moved from Maryland to Chaska in March of 2021.

Chair Carlson has been in Chaska since 2001 and is delighted to have an impactful group of members.

Vice Chair Haga moved to Chaska in 2011, has 3 boys, and works for the school district.

Commissioner White is a junior at Chaska High School and is in her 2nd year as a junior member.

Commissioner Sandison moved to Chaska one month before the pandemic and works for a human rights non-profit organization.

Commissioner Zayic noted she is an immigrant from Romania and is a mother of 2 Autistic boys.

4. Approve Minutes

4A. Approve Dec. 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Hubbard

Second: Commissioner Welvaert

Motion: Carried

5. Open Forum/Guest Presentation

5A. Beyond New Beginnings

5B. Southern Valley Alliance

5C. At United

5D. Carver County Housing Collaborative

Chair Carlson stated these 4 groups have reached out to the Human Rights Commission wanting to speak more about their organization.

6. Treasurer's Report

City Staff Wright reported the Human Rights Commission will have a budget code track finances. City Staff Wright discussed the cost of the MLK Celebration. Chair Carlson mentioned the Human Rights Commission received an extra \$250.00 from the Chaska Rotary and an anonymous donation of \$100.00 to help with the Green Card Voices organization. City Staff Wright stated that will be reflected in next month's report. Chair Carlson also noted this Commission was granted a budget of \$5,000.00 approved by City Council but does not allow any carryover. City Staff Wright mentioned new Commission members can order nametags, t-shirts, and business cards.

Motion: Commissioner Welvaert

Second: Commissioner Sandison

Motion: Carried

7. Old Business

7A. Recap MLK Breakfast

MLK Committee worked with City staff and Park and Recreation to have this event in person. Commissioners Welvaert, White and Chair Carlson commented on ideas stemming from the follow up meeting. The MLK Committee noted 5 nominations were reviewed and 2 awards were given out. One award was given to Girl Scout Troop 15554 for creating the "little free pantry." The other award was given to His House Foundation for providing a resource center for those coming off of homelessness. City Staff Wright thanked Commissioner White for collaborating with students from her school and noted the video is up and running on the Chaska YouTube channel.

7B. Discussion of 2022 Goals and Objectives

Chair Carlson explained the strategic plan for 2020 is to develop recommendations on how the Human Rights Commission can complement the City of Chaska and its activities. The Human Rights Commission has been in existence for 20 years and would like to be more responsive to our community while working with city staff and City Council to come up with a strategic plan. The Commission discussed further ways to support the plan by proactively partnering with various groups or organizations, open communication with City Council and providing community engagement and education to the residents of Chaska.

Commissioner Hubbard volunteered to be the liaison to look at Commission how the Commission uses the Chaska Community Center.

Chair Carlson identified several areas in 2021 that would be a great place to start in 2022; Green Card Voices, Pride Event Celebration, presence at River City Days, preparing the MLK celebration and updating the webpage.

Commissioner Filmore offered some insight into the banning of particular books. Commissioner Welvaert noted her experience as a Commission member is to educate the community about what the Human Rights Commission does. This process helps form what events are sponsored. Commissioner Welvaert also noted using open forum is a great way for the Commission to hear from other groups or organizations. Chair Carlson requested Commissioner Filmore share more information at the next meeting. City Staff Wright mentioned visitor presentation can be done over zoom.

Commissioner Zayic questioned how the visitor presentation is formed and how the education of these presentations are delivered to the public. Commissioner Welvaert stated it is mainly done through community events with speakers, reflections, picnics, and creating a space to learn about diversity

Commissioner Sandison mentioned the Empathetic Response as an on-line platform where ideas and thoughts can be posted.

Commissioner Hubbard supports the ideas of all of the Commission members and would like to find more ways for people to express themselves.

Chair Carlson summarized the goals of the Commission for 2022. Commissioner Zayic mentioned creating more events where people can come together. Commissioner Hubbard mentioned a calendar of significant events that all City staff can look at throughout the year.

Commissioner Kamen mentioned looking at national holidays as well as ones the Commission explores and celebrates.

Chair Carlson defined roles of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. She explained the Secretary and Treasurer tasks typically go through City staff.

City Staff Wright clarified the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair would go to City Council for approval.

Commissioner Hubbard volunteered to be on the budget committee.

Motion to approve Commissioner Hubbard as treasurer.

Motion: Commissioner Welvaert

Second: Commissioner Sandison

Motion: Carried

Motion to Retain Commissioner Carlson and Commissioner Haga as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for 2022.

Motion: Commissioner Welvaert

Second: Commissioner Hubbard

Motion: Carried

8. New Business:

8A. Establish Committees: MLK Celebration, Programs: Green Card Voices, Pride Celebration, River City Days. Web Page, Empathetic Response

Chair Carlson discussed the different Committees and stated the Human Rights Commission work closely with the Chaska Parks and Recreation Department and the Chaska Police Dept to make events happen.

8B. Program for March/April: Green Card Voices – Chaska Community Center Art Space and Theatre Use for Panel Discussion

Chair Carlson also noted she would need a few members of the Commission to volunteer tonight to help with the Green Card Voices Committee because this event is coming up in April. Chair Carlson, Commissioner Sandison and Commissioner Zayic will be leading this committee.

Commissioner Zayic noted the calendar and program committee could be combined into one committee.

8C. Green Card Voices

Chair Carlson explained this program and stated the Commission can either pay the Green Card Voices Program to run the event which would cost the Human Rights Commission approximately \$2,300.00 or provide a more local community event where Chaska residents speak about their own personal immigration story. The use of the Chaska Community Center Gallery Space and the Chaska Community Center Theatre would cost between \$105.00-\$180.00 for 3 hours of time. There is also additional money from the Chaska Rotary and the anonymous donation. Chair Carlson also mentioned another group that has reached out and offered their expertise is the Mi Casa Community Organization.

Commissioner Zayic clarified once we have a panel of residents who want to speak, than the Mi Casa Community Organization would help facilitate that panel discussion. Chair Carlson also expressed her support for using local

community programming and Facebook to facilitate and advertise these events.

Commissioner Zayic mentioned a documentary titled "Beyond the Iron Curtain" on immigration that could be viewed anytime by anyone. City Staff Wright clarified as long as there are no restrictions, it can be played locally on comcast.

Committee Participants are as follows:

Green Card Voices: Commissioners, Zayic, Sandison, and Chair Carlson

Pride Days: Commissioners Zayic, Filmore and Haga

River City Days: Commissioner Sandison and Hubbard

Webpage: Commissioner Haga and Kamen

Guest Speaker:

Empathetic Response: Commissioner Filmore

Budget Committee: Commissioners Hubbard and Haga

Calendar/Program Committee: Commissioner Kamen

MLK: Commissioner Welvaert

9. Next Meeting Date – March 24th zoom will be available

10. Adjourn:

Motion: Commissioner Haga

Second: Commissioner Hubbard

Motion: Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.