

City of Grand Haven Human Relations Commission
Thursday, January 25, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
City Hall | 519 Washington Grand Haven

NOTES

The regular meetings of the Grand Haven Human Relations Commission was called to order by Keith Colson at 530pm in the council chamber of City Hall, 519 Washington Ave.

Present: Commission Members Emmet Brown, Andrew Villanueva, Jessica Cole Robinson, Sydney Kroll, Wes McGee, Greta Fuller, & Keith Colson.

Absent: Annie Baker, Amber Mendiola-Suarez

Others Present: Assistant City Manager Tim Price

Welcome Guests/Call to Audience

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda & Motion to Approve

Colson presented the agenda. Motion by Villanueva seconded by Brown, all approved.

Approval of Minutes of meeting: July 2023

Colson presented the minutes. Motion by Brown seconded by Cole-Robinson, all approved.

Approval of Minutes of meeting: November 2023

Colson presented the minutes. Motion by Brown seconded by Villanueva, all approved.

Liaison Report

Colson presented. Holland HRC: the city is coming off their Social Justice Awards this year. In January, they will support the MLK Day Celebration with I AM Academy. For Black history month, they will prepare a city proclamation for our mayor to read and our diversity equity inclusion and accessibility employee

committee does a cultural learning message plan around Black History Month that is sent to all city hall employees. This year they will also feature historical information or an African American person who is less known to learn more about the great men and women. Their goal with the city is to build a culture of learning, awareness and celebration of all peoples.

The momentum center: holding a dinner and movie night on February 9 will include showing the movie Rustin in honor of black history month. Preparing for their Civil Rights Road Trip. This will take place in April and registration is due by March 1. They are also starting to take applications for this year's Across the Bridge experience. They are hopeful that someone from the HRC will be able to attend this year.

Grand Haven Pride: holding an event on Jan. 24th. We have a Black History Month event planned as well. More can be found on their facebook page.

Old Business

Kroll & Fuller have been reaching out to several teachers and programs about the black history notable figures series, working on making the graphics ready to post. Colson requested the GHPs logo or a note about how the students contributed to this project.

Proclamation for Black History Month: 02/05th 7:30pm, Brown will come to read the Proclamation during public comment. If possible Kroll or Fuller will comment on the recognition series, otherwise Colson will do so.

Colson acknowledged that the HRC did not participate this year helping with the city's MLK day of service, and that we would work to improve for next year.

New Business

Colson requested all commission members take a moment to respond to a survey to gather information for the annual report.

The commission recognized a need to develop and grow their voice in the community. Villanueva suggested inviting members of Holland HRC to come and speak with us about how they have become more substantial.

Price suggested the Oddsides trivia night as a means for public connection; using the information from our recognition project for Black History month. Cole

Robinson recommended a cameo of HRC members at the GH Pride event in February to promote awareness.

Brown suggested we look at human trafficking as a focus in 2024. Colson suggested we review options to suggest training for the city, Price confirmed this training exists for Public Safety. The commission discussed focusing on having something for April, which is sexual assault awareness month. Brown will review if there are potential grants for future programs. There was a discussion as to whether this fell within the scope of the HRC, and their efforts toward diversity, equity and inclusion. The overall consensus was that this fell within the scope of educating the community and uplifting unheard voices.

The members of the HRC will look into programs that are already in existence, and review again at the February meeting. The commission agreed that they would not seek to do another series of posts for Women's history month, as it was simply not within their current capacity to do so. The commission was aligned to review individually what they would like to look into moving forward into the new year and circle back to this topic next session.

Second Call to Audience – No one here.

Motion to adjourned at 6:59pm, motioned by Villanueva, second by Kroll. The next meeting will take place on February 22, 2024.