

Human Relations Commission  
Minutes of January 27, 2022 Regular Meeting  
Grand Haven Community Center  
421 Columbus Grand Haven MI 49417  
Live Stream via Facebook Live

Meeting called to order by Werksma at 5:38 pm

**Present:** Avery Rant, Kristen Bunn, Louann Werksma, Brett Billedeau, Keith Colson, Shyle Lyons, Wes McGee and Rhonda Kleyn

**Absent:** Annie Baker, Emily Nail and Alexa Redick

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda by Billedeau with the addition of New Business letter A, complaint and New Business letter D, HRC membership moving other New business to letters B and C. Motion seconded by Lyons, all in favor.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes of November 2021 by Lyons, seconded by McGee, all in favor. Motion to approve minutes of December 2021 by Colson, seconded by McGee, all in favor.

**Welcome Guests:** N/A

**General call to the audience:** N/A

**Old Business:**

- a) Anti-Racism Task Force Report-McGee reported that the Book Club has been cancelled until further notice due to the COVID 19 virus and restrictions at the library. Werksma mentioned that the Grand Haven Tribune featured an article about a cultural immersion trip happening in April 2022 to Jim Crow locations in the southern United States. More information can be found on the Momentum Center website.
- b) Visionary Award Subcommittee Report-Tabled, no report available
- c) MLK Day of Service Update-Rant reported that the Kids Food Basket supper-bag packing event held at the Community Center with city staff was a great success. Rant, with the help of her mother, delivered over 275 supper bags to Kids Food Basket (KFB). KFB was grateful for the donation as they were out of supper bags when Rant dropped off the boxes. Rant reported that GHAPS students decorated 1382 bags for meals to be packed in and 3453 food items were donated at the schools. City staff donated a large number of items also however, there was not a specific count for those items. The extra donated food items went to Blessing in a Backpack, Hand to Hand and The Momentum Center. Bunn invited the GH Tribune. A reporter came and an article with photos was in the

Tribune promoting the volunteer work. Werksma asked for the number of volunteer hours were contributed. Kleyn stated she will try to get that information.

- d) Annual Report contents-Werksma is just about ready to send the draft report to members.

**New Business:**

- a) Complaint - Kleyn reported the HRC received a complaint on January 17, 2022. She forwarded that complaint to Chairperson Werksma. The nature of the complaint was housing discrimination and vandalism. Because both things require help from the appropriate legal entity Kleyn and Werksma decided to get the proper referrals for the complainant rather than attempting to mediate with the complainant. Kleyn researched who the correct entity is for the apartment building the complainant lives in. She then emailed the complainant and the resident (the complaint came from the resident's daughter) all of the referral information. Kleyn asked Nail to follow up with them in about 30 days to make sure they have gotten the needed help.
- b) SWOT analysis for City Council – The City Council has conducted strategic planning. As part of that process they are asking all commission members to comment on their SWOT analysis. Kleyn had asked the members, via email, to provide feedback for the council. She received some response. All members present agreed to send their feedback to Kleyn by Monday, January 31 so she has time to compile all of the comments for the City Clerk by his deadline.
- c) 2022 Goal Setting – Kleyn had suggested, via email, that each member send her their brainstorm thoughts and suggestions to a list of questions to prepare for writing some goals at this meeting. Kleyn had slides prepared with the feedback she did receive to help get the goals written as they need to go in the annual report. There was much conversation about what each member would like to see the group accomplish and what work they would like the HRC to be involved in. Werksma stated she will take all of that information and use it to come up with goals relating to all of the comments. The goals will be in the annual report.
- d) Membership - Werksma reported that non-voting member Karen Forbes has resigned for personal reasons. This is a non-voting position so it doesn't create a vacancy.

**Motion to adjourn at 7:38 pm by Billedeau, seconded by Colson, all in favor**

**Next meeting February 24, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.**