

Human Relations Commission
Remote via Zoom
Live streamed via Facebook
Minutes of February, 2021 Regular Meeting

Meeting called to order by Werksma at 5:35 p.m.

Present: Madigan Lautzenheiser (present in Nunica, MI), Alexa Redick (present in Walker, MI), Barbara VanHorssen, Louann Werksma, Shyle Lyons, Reyna Masko, Wes McGee, Angela Tran, Rhonda Kleyn. Each member indicated verbally their city and state location as Grand Haven, MI unless noted.

Absent: N/A

Approval of Agenda: Motion by VanHorssen, Seconded by Tran, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by McGee, Seconded by VanHorssen, all in favor.

Welcome Guests: Brian Wheeler, GHAPS, Mike Dora, Grand Haven City Council, Robert Monetza, Grand Haven Mayor, Al Vanderberg, Ottawa County Administrator, Ashley Latsch, Assistant to the City Manager, Annie Baker, City of Grand Haven resident, Ryan Cummins, Grand Haven City Council, Keith Colson, City of Grand Haven resident.

General call to the audience-No comments at this time.

Old Business :

- a. **Strategic Plan**-Al Vanderberg, Ottawa County Administrator reviewed the 2020 strategic plan goals and objectives. The group provided updates, discussed continued priorities and assignments. Vanderberg will update the plan and provide the report to the HRC. After receiving the report, the group will conduct an internal goal survey. The other next step is to create a matrix for recruiting new members. See attached updated strategic plan.
- b. **Town Hall update**- Vanhorssen provided an update from the February Town Hall. This month was the first in a series of 3 on the topic of Racism in the Justice System. The event had 180 registrants and 137 attendees. Vanhorssen reported one piece of data from the attendees is 51% more responding to the poll reported they are more comfortable talking about race. The second session in the series is March 22 from 6:30 to 8 pm.
- c. **Visionary Award update** – The sub-committee reported they have evaluated the nominations and chosen the award recipients. A video is being produced and will be presented at the March 15, 2021 City Council meeting. All HRC members will attend the virtual meeting.

New Business:

- a. **Communication and Correspondence** – Lyons reported the social media data for the previous month. She has worked hard to increase awareness and engagements with the HRC social media pages. She shared excellent results with her efforts.

- b. **Gateways for Growth** – Kleyn reported the HRC has been given the opportunity to make recommendations for the Ottawa County Gateways for Growth project. Ottawa County is the recipient of a grant for this national program. Part of the project is to highlight stories of immigrant families. Kleyn reported that City Manager, Pat McGinnis, has given HRC members the opportunity to nominate families from Grand Haven to have their stories highlighted. HRC members are going to ask families they know for permission to share their names and report to Kleyn by March 25.
- c. **HRC Roster and Appointments** – Werksma reported the commission has two current openings and will have two more in June along with 2 student openings. Lautzenheiser reported she is connecting with the Grand Haven High School principal about ways to announce the openings. It was suggested that, if needed, reaching out to other school districts would be a good idea.
- d. **Agency Updates** – Liaison Ben Knight reported that Loutit Library has partnered with Hackley Public Library in a program called “Job Fair To Go”. They are distributing job search packets in English and Spanish. They will be available in Grand Haven March 1 in paper and digital options.
- e. **Agency Updates** – Kleyn communicated that her office is seeing some difficult client situations regarding mortgage forbearances related to COVIS 19. She explained her office is prepared for these clients to come in for foreclosure prevention counseling to ensure home owners understand their situations. She explained some marketing her office is doing to get information to the public. McGee reminded Kleyn of his excellent suggestion to distribute the information electronically to area churches for the newsletters, etc.

Second Call to the Audience - no comments.

Motion to adjourn by VanHorssen, seconded by Masko, all in favor.

Next meeting March 25, 2021 via Zoom at 5:30 p.m.