

Human Relations Commission  
Minutes of February 24, 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 5:36 pm

There were technical difficulties with the Facebook account so the meeting was not live streamed.

**Present:** Avery Rant, Louann Werksma, Wes McGee, Annie Baker, Emily Nail and Rhonda Kleyn

**Absent:** Alexa Redick, Brett Billedeau, Keith Colson, Shyle Lyons and Kristen Bunn

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve by Nail, Seconded by McGee, all in favor

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes of January 27, 2022 by Baker, Seconded by Nail, all in favor

**Welcome Guests:** N/A

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

**Liaison Reports:** Werksma read the following email report from John Martin, Loutit Library.

1) March is Quilt Month and we are working with 5 other Ottawa County libraries on a month-long celebration of all things quilting. Each of the 6 libraries are hosting programs, in-person or online, on quilting and/or crafting with fabric. We are hosting in-person programs on English Paper Piecing and Cartonnage. In addition, as a group we are hosting via Zoom a presentation from Dr. Marsha MacDowell from the MSU Art Museum and founder of The Quilt Index, on the history and types of quilts from around the world on Thursday, March 4 @ 7pm. The Zoom meeting info is: 81876947312 and P/W 705144. Check the library's calendar [here](#) for upcoming quilt programs. AND, when you register for the March 4 program on the Library's website -- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81876947312?pwd=ZUJlc0pG9Z5tBVbqcHFpZyBHSy2XKUUb> -- you'll get the Zoom link.

The Lighthouse Quilt Guild has a wonderful exhibition of quilts on display in our upper lobby now through early April.

2) Dr. Kristin Kobes Du Mez, history prof @ Calvin, is tentatively scheduled to speak at the library on March 22 @ 6:30pm on her latest book, *Jesus and John Wayne: How White*

*Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*. Again, please check our online calendar for confirmation on this and any other program.

3) Momentum Center's (Anti) Racism Task Force bookclub, led by Wes McGee, returns to the library for in-person discussion on Saturday, March 12 @ 11am.

No other liaison reports this month.

#### **Committee Reports:**

a. Diversity & Inclusion Awareness-No report this month

"Humans of GH" project-Werksma reported that Lyons has requested a meeting with City staff to discuss ideas for the project.

Veterans Day Profiles-Nail is interested in doing a Veterans Day promotion, highlighting some of the many veterans in the community. She volunteered to manage this project. She is interested in getting perspectives from different age groups, has some thoughts about how many people, can be posted on social media, recorded interviews, and promoted in the local newspaper.

b. Accessibility Report-No Report. Werksma reported that Billedeau has offered to chair this sub-committee.

c. Visionary Award Subcommittee Report-Baker reported that she met with former visionary award committee member, Reyna Masko. They have the nomination form ready to post on social media. They are likely going to change the presentation date of the award to sometime during the Hispanic Heritage Fiesta. Baker thinks she has found someone to make a video pro bono. She is also going to try to find a sponsor for any expenses related to the award. She asked for up to 3 HRC members to be on the selection committee. Nail offered to be on that committee.

d. Communications/Correspondence report-This committee has two new members, Bunn and Rant. Nothing new to report at this time.

#### **Old Business:**

a) Kleya reported she has not submitted the annual report to City staff and requested to be on a city council agenda. She will get it done, asap.

#### **New Business:**

a) Endorse special event-Werksma presented information about a special event application received by the City's community affairs manager. A motion was made by Nail; the HRC enthusiastically endorses the application of Jocelyn Tollevors for a special event at Imagination Station on May 22, 2022 and recommends that all associated fees be waived. Seconded by Baker, all in favor. Werksma will prepare memo to Char Seise.

- b) Policy and Procedures Review-Nail offered to type a new set of procedures for the group to review. Some recommended changes are that the staff liaison should maintain complaint records rather than the commission chair. Werksma is going to create a new complaint form. Werksma made some suggestions for changing the voting rights/structure of the board.

The HRC members would like it if:

all appointed members can vote, including non-residents  
if someone is a voting member and moves they don't lose their voting rights  
non-voting members could act as alternates if there is a lack of a quorum and  
vote in their place

and/or, if there is a vacancy on the commission, the non-voting member can apply to fill the position.

Kleyn is going to ask the City Clerk for more information.

- c) Vacancies-Werksma announced that Brett Billedeau has volunteered to be the accessibility sub-committee chair person. The HRC needs a new GHAPS liaison. Werksma is going to reach out to Mary Jane Evink to ask if she is interested.
- d) Agency Updates-N/A
- e) Other New Business-Werksma talked about concerns residents have about the maintenance of city sidewalks. She stated there has been recent requests from the City in the newspaper and on social media asking residents to help care for the sidewalk in front of their house. She has heard the local police are threatening to ticket people who are walking in the street in places where the sidewalk isn't clear. She would like to know what sort of options the city offers for people to report blocked or damaged sidewalks and also what do people do when they can't physically clear them. Kleyn stated that See. Click. Fix. Is a good option. McGee said to bring complaints to DPW or City Hall and to take pictures. When it is lawn mowing, the city will mow unkempt yards and bill the homeowner. Werksma is going to take these ideas and report some options to the City. Nail agreed with Werksma, in that there are definitely accessibility issues for wheelchair users.

**Motion to adjourn at 7:05 pm by Baker, seconded by McGee, all in favor**

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