

City of Grand Haven
Human Relations Commission

MINUTES
of the regular monthly meeting May 25, 2023



1. The regular monthly meeting was **called to order** by Chair Keith Colson at **5:35 p.m.** in the council chambers of City Hall, 519 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven.
2. **Attendance:** Present: Annie Baker, vice-chair; Keith Colson, chair; Wes McGee, Avery Rant, Louann Werksma. Absent: Brett Billedeau. A quorum was present. Others present: None
3. The **Agenda was approved** as posted. Motion to Approve: Werksma moved, McGee supported and all voted in favor.
4. Approval of Minutes of meeting of 3/23/2023: No minutes to approve. The regular meetings of February, March and April were all canceled due to lack of quorum.
5. Welcome Guests: None
6. General Call to the Audience: No comments.
7. Liaison Report (Chamber) no report
8. **Old Business**
 - a. Future agenda planning: In light of the lack of communication from liaisons, Colson suggested that we reach out to all liaisons and ask them what will make them want to get involved. Baker suggested someone reach out to the scheduled liaison before each meeting and invite them to send emails in lieu of attendance. As the vice chair, Baker offered to be the point person for communications with liaisons.

As for future agenda items, Colson said it will be important to cement community partnerships with Hispanic Heritage Fiesta, Pride Festival, and to maintain the Visionary Award that we instituted in 2021. Baker said there are nominations for 2023. She has not had time to contact and meet with the community subcommittee and will be looking for one of the other members of the commission to spearhead that effort, with assistance from rest of commission as needed.
 - b. HRC 2022 annual report: Colson presented a draft of annual report and asked members to send additions and corrections to him prior to June meeting.
 - c. Update on Vacancies & Appointments. Emily Nail resigned in April. Currently we have 5 adult members: Baker, Billedeau, Colson, McGee and Werksma.. Werksma will complete her final term 6-30-23, leaving 4. Council agenda has one appointee to approve: Amber Mendiola Suarez.. Avery Rant is attending her last meeting as student commissioner. That leaves 2 adult and 2 student positions open.
 - d. Update on HRC ordinances change: At its regular meeting of April 10, 2023 Council approved changes to the City Ordinance governing HRC makeup as requested by HRC. The revised policy is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
9. **New Business**

- a. **Welcoming Ottawa Initiative.** Colson will reach out to Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance (LEDA) as well as Esther Fifelski at Holland Human Relations Commission to learn more about both organizations and how we can work together to keep DEI alive in Ottawa County.
- b. **Pride Month and Grand Haven Pride Festival.** Colson reported that approximately 6 pride flags were purchased by local businesses this year, with an undisclosed number being purchased privately online. The Chamber of Commerce sent the flag appeal letter to all its members and the response has been positive.

The group agreed to staff a booth at the Pride Festival vendor market on June 10. Baker will handle signage, Rant will bring giveaways, Werksma will print sign up sheets for people who want more info and copies of the alleged discrimination form, the city will provide a canopy, Colson will bring pride flags to raffle and all will work 2-hour shifts from 11-5. Colson added that Fluid Grand Haven, a vintage resale shop, would donate pride stickers.

- c. **Social media presence.** With Werksma ending her second term on June 30, she will turn over her FB administrator status to Baker, who will identify HRC members going forward to maintain and expand our social media presence.

10. Second Call to Audience: No comments

11. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. Baker moved and Rant seconded, all in favor. Next meeting: June 22, 2023