

City of Grand Haven
Human Relations Commission
Thursday, May 26, 2022 5:30 p.m.
City Hall
519 Washington, Grand Haven



Minutes

1. Call to Order..... Nail
2. Attendance..... Latsch
Present: Baker, Rant, Werksma, Colson, McGee, Lyons, Billedeau
Absent: Nail
3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda & Motion to Approve..... All
Werksma requested that Mary Jane Evink be added under Liaison Reports.
Approved as Amended.
Motion: Baker
Second: Colson
4. Approval of Minutes of meeting April 28, 2022 Motion to Approve All
Approved without change.
Motion: Lyons
Second: Baker
5. Welcome Guests Nail
6. General Call to the Audience..... Nail
No members of the public were present.

7. Liaison Reports Chamber
Barbara Lee VanHorssen, *Momentum Center*, reported that the center was celebrating its seventh year as a nonprofit and will be hosting an anniversary event. VanHorssen updated the commission on the Town Halls, Just Goods Café, Cultural Immersion experiences and the Anti-racism taskforce.

VanHorssen expressed concern about the current political environment and explained that the center will be hosting a voter turnout and vaccination event in October.

VanHorssen updated the group on the Holland location; explaining the focus of the location is mental illness and disability, and that they were more-so exploring the community facing piece. She added they will be considering an ice cream or food truck onsite.

Mary Jane Evink, *GHAPS*, reported the work being completed by the diversity committee at the school; explaining that in the current climate the strengths and weaknesses of the district became obvious. Evink added that the district was undergoing implicit bias training, creating a DEI focused newsletter, and being intentional about diversifying the library collection.

8. Committee Reports

a. Diversity & Inclusion AwarenessColson Pride Flags project

Colson reported that around ten businesses would be participating and the flags would be delivered the following Saturday. Colson explained that the Tribune agreed to report on the effort and that the Library would be conducting a Story Walk June 6-12 in Central Park with a Pride theme.

“Humans of GH” project

Latsch explained that City Council elected to not complete a calendar in 2023 due to general budget constraints.

Lyons expressed that a digital option would be a great alternative; or that the Commission could consider fundraising to complete their own calendar.

Werksma added that the Commission could have a nonprofit sponsor each month and use their platform to promote the cause.

Lyons concluded that she would convene the communications committee to plan and further discuss.

b. Accessibility Nail

No Report.

c. Visionary Award Subcommittee Report..... Baker

Baker gave a status update; Rant reported that the application had been sent out at the schools.

Werksma suggested that Baker send the application to the Chamber of Commerce for their newsletter.

Baker added that she was still working on a potential location to present the award, but will leave it at the Fiesta until/unless something else presented itself.

d. GHHHF No Chair

No Report.

e. Communications/Correspondence report Lyons

Lyons reported that on Facebook 5 posts had reached over 3,200 people in the previous 28 days and that the Visionary Award post had reached 2,500 people.

Lyons encouraged the Commission to send her content for posting.

9. Old Business

Werksma added that on June 7th at 5:30pm, Baker and Masko would be presenting Loutit Library the original artwork from the Visionary Award that was awarded to retiring Library Director John Martin.

10. New Business

a. Other New Business All

Werksma inquired about inviting Council members to the Commission's June 23rd meeting.

Commission was in favor.

b. Agency Updates..... All
McGee provided an update about the book Club and joint efforts with the Momentum Center and the Library.

11. Second Call to Audience.....Nail
No members of the public were present.

12. Adjournment & Next meeting: June 23, 2022 **Motion to Adjourn**
Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm
Motion: Colson
Second: McGee