

Human Relations Commission  
Minutes of September 23, 2021 Regular Meeting  
City Hall Council Chambers  
Live Stream via Facebook Live

Meeting called to order by Nail at 5:36 pm.

**Present:** Anne Baker, Brett Billedeau, Keith Colson, Avery Rant, Emily Nail, Shyle Lyons and Rhonda Kleyn

**Absent:** Karen Forbes, Alexa Redick, Natalie Crowe, Wes McGee and Louann Werksma

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Baker, Seconded by Colson, all in favor.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Lyons, Seconded by Baker, all in favor to approve August 2021 minutes.

**Welcome Guests:** No guests present

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

**Liaison Reports:**

- a. Brian Wheeler, GHAPS – No representative present
- b. Loutit Library, no representative present. John Martin provided an email report to Kleyn and Werksma. Kleyn highlighted some of the Loutit Library current activities and encouraged everyone to check their website for more information.
- c. Lt Lee Adams, Grand Haven Public Safety, no representative present
- d. Nancy Manglos, Chamber of Commerce, no representative present, Nancy Manglos provided an email update regarding Chamber business. She shared that the Lakeshore Youth Leadership is starting up again on October 7 after a year off. Their focus is on RESPECT. Manglos also shared that several Grand Haven area companies are working on DEI statements and developing plans to roll out in 2022.

**Old Business :**

- a. **Training and Retention Subcommittee Report**
  - a. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet on October 6, 2021.
- b. **Policy and Procedure Subcommittee Report**
  - a. No update. Brett Billedeau has taken over as leader of this subcommittee.
- c. **Diversity and Inclusion Awareness Subcommittee Report**

- a. Colson stated he is working to make connections with City staff and downtown business regarding a Pride Flag display and story walk. He has emailed with Jeremy Swiftney and plans to approach downtown businesses with a plan in October and November. Colson reported September has a couple of important Jewish holidays including the current one of Sukkot. And is Hispanic Heritage Awareness month. October has a significant list of important causes including, but not limited to, domestic violence awareness, Italian American awareness and breast cancer awareness. To recognize the important groups Nail suggested and Lyons volunteered to create an infographic highlighting each cause. Members can provide Lyons with details regarding any they have information for that she can post on social media. Colson has found an extensive Google calendar called "Diversity Resources.com" that he thinks is a good resource for the HRC although he warned it is almost too much information.
- d. **Anti-Racism Task Force Report**
  - a. No report available
- e. **GH Hispanic Heritage Fiesta Report**
  - a. No report available
- f. **HRC booth at Hispanic Heritage Fiesta**
  - a. Rant reported she has all of her materials ready for the Mercado booth. She showed the group the SWAG materials she has. She even added stickers of the HRC logo to the bubble containers she has to hand out. She translated one of the informational flyers to Spanish. All seems ready to go for the event on Saturday, September 25.
- g. **Visionary Award Subcommittee Report**
  - a. Baker stated she doesn't have anything to report at this time.
- h. **Affordable Housing Update**
  - a. Kleyn and Nail have discussed possible first steps for a group. Once they have a list of any potential volunteers from the signup sheets at the Heritage Fiesta Mercado booth they will reach out to those volunteers and plan a meeting for everyone.
- i. **Accessibility Subcommittee Update**
  - a. This subcommittee met on September 14. Billedeau reported they have some plans for the month of October to spread awareness about disability employment month. Some articles and interviews will be sent to Shyle Lyons for posting on social media including short video presentations for hearing impaired awareness month. Billedeau and Baker are looking at the Grand Haven's City's website and exploring how accessible it is etc.
- j. **Communications/Correspondence Report**
  - a. Lyons shared an article from the Grand Haven Tribune of an interview with Grand Haven City staff member Zac Vanosdol about the GARE initiative the City is working on. Lyons also shared that the HRC had 15

posts in September with posts reaching 500 people. She shared that Facebook is reporting group information differently and she is a little unclear about what the numbers now mean.

**New Business:**

**1. Agency Updates**

- a. Nothing new to report this month.

**2. November is Homelessness Awareness Month**

- a. Kleyn shared that after she and Emily Nail meet and after she receives data from area housing agencies they will have more of a plan/information to share.

**3. GARE Update**

- a. Kleyn provided a brief report from City of Grand Haven Human Resource Manager Zac VanOsdol. VanOsdol reported the City is in its fourth month of pre-work for the GARE initiative. Ottawa County has hired a DEI consultant that will join the county side GARE group in a couple of months. The county received a \$20,000 grant from the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation to support the costs of the consultant so the actual cost to the City is reduced to \$900. The City has distributed the DEI survey, which is being used to gather baseline information on DEI knowledge, along with some thoughts and experiences. VanOsdol plans to share this data with the HRC in October or November.

**Second Call to Audience:**

- a. N/A

**Motion to adjourn at 6:13 by Baker, Seconded by Colson, all in favor**

**Next meeting October 28 at 5:30 p.m.**