

Human Relations Commission  
Minutes of October 28, 2021 Regular Meeting  
City Hall Council Chambers  
Live Stream via Facebook Live

Meeting called to order by Werksma at 5:34pm

**Present:** Anne Baker, Karen Forbes, Avery Rant, Emily Nail, Shyle Lyons, Alexa Redick, Wes McGee, Rhonda Kleyn and Louann Werksma

**Absent:** Brett Billedeau and Keith Colson

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Nail, Seconded by McGee, all in favor to approve September 2021 minutes.

**Welcome Guests:** Mayor Robert Monetza

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

**Liaison Reports:**

- a. Brian Wheeler, GHAPS – No representative present
- b. Loutit Library, No representative present.
- c. Lt Lee Adams, Grand Haven Public Safety, no representative present
- d. Nancy Manglos, Chamber of Commerce, no representative present
- e. Barbara Lee VanHorssen, Momentum Center shared via email that the Anti-Racism Task Force Town Hall Meetings have resumed. The fall series focuses on Racism and Religion.
- f. Reyna Masko, Tri-Cities Puentes Initiative, no representative present

**Old Business :**

**a. Training and Retention Subcommittee Report**

- a. Werksma explained that all HRC information is in the Google Drive; what information is there and asked members to check it out. Werksma also offered some options for learning more about the HRC.

**b. Policy and Procedure Subcommittee Report**

- a. This group has not met due to schedule conflicts. Kleyn offered to set up a meeting via Zoom if the group needs that and suggested putting the policy and procedure topic on a regular HRC agenda for the entire group to discuss.

- c. **Diversity and Inclusion Awareness Subcommittee Report**
  - a. N/A
- d. **Anti-Racism Task Force Report**
  - a. McGee gave an update from the September Town Hall meeting. September was the first of 3 meetings covering racism and religion. McGee said the conversation was interesting, he felt one of the guest speakers was not knowledgeable enough for the discussion. There were technical issues during this virtual meeting.
  - b. McGee provided an update regarding his book club. They have read 6 books in 2021 and in 2022 plan to begin with the topic of critical race theory.
- e. **GH Hispanic Heritage Fiesta Report**
  - a. Forbes did not have numbers to report yet but said the Fiesta went well.
- f. **HRC booth at Hispanic Heritage Fiesta**
  - a. Rant explained the booth was a success and thanked everyone for their help.
- g. **Visionary Award Subcommittee Report**
  - a. Baker stated she doesn't have anything to report at this time.
- h. **Affordable Housing Update**
  - a. Nail and Kleyn reported about an upcoming planning commission public hearing. The topic of the public hearing is text amendments to the current zoning ordinance adopted in January 2021. The zoning ordinance was updated in January to support affordable housing options in the City. Some residents do not like the changes and the commission is considering rolling back some of the changes. Mayor Monetza provided some additional background information for the group.
  - b. Kleyn explained House Bill 4722 regarding short term rentals (STR) that was recently passed in the House. The Bill will take away local control of STRs. This could have a devastating impact on cities like Grand Haven. Kleyn asked anyone who opposes the change to review the email she sent and respond through the link in the email.
- i. **Accessibility Subcommittee Update**
  - a. N/A
- j. **Communications/Correspondence Report**
  - a. Lyons shared the HRC FB page had 314 page engagements, 3 new followers and 13 posts in the last 30 days. She asked for information from everyone that she can share.

**New Business:**

**1. MLK Day of Service Ideas**

- a. Kleyn shared some ideas from the City HR manager, Zac VanOsdol, regarding the MLK day of service. Non-union city staff have the day off and are encouraged

to participate in some sort of service activity. VanOsdol would like to collaborate with the HRC for 2022. He expects 10-12 city staff to participate in the day of service activities. He presented an idea for a "Day of Service Bingo" to encourage participation.

b. Werksma suggested calling local agencies to see if they have suggestions for activities or if they could benefit from volunteers on MLK day. She is going to call Salvation Army. Nail is going to call Love in Action and Gracious Grounds. Rant is going to call Kids Food Basket.

c. A book donation at local schools was suggested. Individuals could be invited to help deliver books on MLK Day or to donate money to purchase the books.

## **2. Agency Updates**

- a. United Way, the 2021 United Way Community Assessment is available. The entire report can be found on their website, [www.ottawaunitedway.org](http://www.ottawaunitedway.org). Kleyln shared that current ALICE information can be found at [alicereport.org](http://alicereport.org).

## **3. November is homelessness awareness month**

- a. Kleyln stated she will send social media ideas to Lyons throughout the month.

## **4. Black History Month Ideas**

- a. Kleyln reminded the group that now is the time to start planning Black History Month activities to be ready for February. Werksma suggested repeating the posts from last year about local history. McGee had suggestions about sharing informational videos to help educate the public; possibly partnering with Loutit Library. McGee said he will research some ideas and lead this.

## **5. Commission resignation/appointments**

- a. Werksma informed the group that Natalie Cole resigned from the HRC. To fill that vacancy a previous applicant, Kristen Bunn will be appointed and sworn in on November 15.

## **Second Call to Audience:**

- a. N/A

**Motion to adjourn at 7:20 pm by Nail, Seconded by McGee, all in favor**

**Next meeting November 18 at 5:30 p.m.**