

Human Relations Commission
Minutes of December 16, 2021 Regular Meeting
Remote via Zoom
Live Stream via Facebook Live

Meeting called to order by Nail at 6:08 pm

Present: Anne Baker, Karen Forbes, Avery Rant, Emily Nail, Kristen Bunn, Louann Werksma and Rhonda Kleyn

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

Approval of Agenda: No Quorum

Approval of Minutes: No Quorum

Welcome Guests: N/A

General call to the audience: N/A

Comments and conversation :

a. MLK Day of Service

Rant has organized the Kids Food Basket food drive for the MLK Day of Service project. Grand Haven schools grades K-8 will be collecting food donations from January 3, 2022 to January 14. Students will also be decorating supper bags. Kleyn explained the HRC can use the Escanaba Room at the Community Center on Monday, January, 17 to pack the supper bags. Volunteers should park in the Fulton Street parking lot and use the lower level entrance. Rant has the boxes for the completed supper bags and Kids Food Basket will pick up the boxes at the Community Center for distribution. Rant explained it typically takes about 2 hours to pack 50-100 supper bags. The group decided to begin at 10am. Kleyn will update the City HR manager to get City staff volunteers. HRC members Baker, Rant, Werksma and Forbes all indicated they will be helping on Monday the 17th. Kleyn also told Rant she can bring the food donation boxes to her office at City Hall to store for the weekend after she picks them up from the school buildings. Kleyn will get everything to the Community Center on Monday morning.

Nail reminded the group there are some volunteer opportunities at Gracious Grounds although she cautioned about volunteering for indoor activities at their location due to COVID concerns. Kleyn will

communicate to City staff that a donation opportunity is to drop off returnable cans and bottles to Gracious Grounds as money from this helps purchase food for the residents. Nail also mentioned a possible opportunity for the future is volunteers to teach simple life skill classes at Gracious Grounds, such as, simple crock meals.

Werksma reported she heard from Love in Action that they have an opportunity for 4 to 6 volunteers to help on MLK day by packing food pantry and food truck orders. Kleyn will pass this information along to City staff to participate in.

b. Annual Report

Werksma has sent a draft version of the annual report. She is requesting all commissioners review it, provide input and any additions or revisions to her. Bunn agreed to help Werksma pull the report together. The report will be completed after the January goal setting session.

c. Meeting schedule changes

Kleyn showed the chart she created for a new meeting format. The purpose is to keep meetings to 90 minutes. Kleyn explained it is just a suggested format and can be updated/changed as needed.

Kleyn also talked about the January HRC meeting. The January meeting is when the group will set 2022 goals. She asked the members to think about why they joined the HRC, what they would like to accomplish as a group, what questions they have about their role on the HRC and how that may fit into goal setting and what they feel is or isn't working for them as individuals and how can that be fixed with goal setting. Kleyn will email the entire group and ask for this info by a certain and will have everyone's thoughts compiled for the January meeting. Werksma asked her to include the 2021 revised strategic plan with this email so new members can see what last year's ideas were.

Second call to the audience: N/A

McGee signed on to the meeting at 6:33 which made a quorum present. The meeting was ending at this same time.

Motion to adjourn at 6:33pm by McGee, seconded by Baker, all in favor

Next meeting January 27, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.