



## Human Relations Commission Agenda

5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Jack Powell Conference Room – City Hall

25 Center Street

Vermillion, South Dakota 57069

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Adoption of the Agenda**
3. **Approval of the Minutes**
  - a. August 3, 2023 Regular Meeting.
4. **Visitors to be Heard**
5. **Old Business**
  - a. Future Listening Sessions.
  - b. Community Partner Discussion.
6. **New Business**
  - a. MEI Scoring Update.
7. **Standing Business**
  - a. Future Programming.
  - b. Future Proclamations.
8. **Adjourn**

Access the Human Relations Commission Agenda on the web – [www.vermillion.us](http://www.vermillion.us)

**Addressing the Commission:** Persons addressing the Commission shall be recognized. Please raise your hand to be recognized and state your name and address.

**a. Items Not on the Agenda** Members of the public may speak under Visitors to Be Heard on any topic NOT on the agenda. Remarks are limited to 5 minutes and no decision will be made at this time.

**b. Agenda Items:** Public testimony will be taken at the beginning of each agenda item, after the subject has been announced by the Chair and explained by staff. Any citizen who wishes may speak one time for 5 minutes on each agenda item. Public testimony will then be closed and the topic will be given to the Commission for possible action. At this point, only commission members and staff may discuss the current agenda item unless a commission member moves to allow another person to speak and there is unanimous consent from the commission. Questions from commission members, however, may be directed to the public through the presiding officer at any time.

**Meeting Assistance:** The City of Vermillion fully subscribes to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you desire to attend this public meeting and are in need of special accommodation, please notify the City Manager's Office at 677-7050 at least 3 working days prior to the meeting so appropriate auxiliary aids and services can be made available.

As a courtesy to others, we ask that cellular phones and pagers be turned off during the meeting.

*Our future as a community depends on recognizing our past.*

*The City of Vermillion exists on the ancestral lands of the Oceti Sakowin and Omaha indigenous people.*

*We honor and appreciate those who have the longest relationship with this place.*

Unapproved Minutes  
Human Relations Commission  
Thursday, August 3, 2023 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order on Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Jordan Bonstrom, Michelle Kavanaugh (via Zoom), Trevor Mandernach, Mike Phelan, Becky Rider, Phil Terwilliger, Cameron Morgan

Staff Present: John Prescott, City Manager, Jack Baustian, Assistant to the City Manager, Lt. Drew Gortmaker, Vermillion Police Dept. Investigations Lieutenant

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Phelan suggested adding 5c. Students Rights Pamphlet to the agenda. Rider moved to adopt the agenda with the addition, seconded by Mandernach. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Phelan motioned to approve the June 1, 2023 minutes, seconded by Rider. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Visitors to be Heard

Lt. Drew Gortmaker, VPD Investigations Lieutenant, shared background about the Vermillion Police Department and how his position as the LGBTQ+ liaison between the Commission and the VPD can be helpful moving forward. Lt. Gortmaker shared the status of VPD and how the training process for new officers looks. Discussion followed.

5. Old Business

5a. Bonstrom updated the commission on the purchasing of a tablecloth for community tabling events. He stated that the vendor he was going through was closing their business and asked the commission for different vendor options. Kavanaugh stated she was willing to take the lead on creating and purchasing a tablecloth with a deadline of August 24, 2023.

5b. Bonstrom stated that at the July 6, 2023 meeting, there was discussion on purchasing nametags for community events to increase visibility. Kavanaugh offered to take lead on the creation and purchase of nametags for the commission with a deadline of August 24, 2023.

5c. Phelan stated that the Students Right Pamphlet needed to be revised and reprinted for distribution. He stated he would have these revisions completed and ready for review by August 6, 2023.

6. New Business

6a. Bonstrom provided the commission with an update on future listening sessions. Commission members discussed points of contact for each group they look to invite, and it was agreed upon that the International Student group would be reached out to for September, Native American group in October, and Veterans group in November.

6b. Bonstrom suggested discussion about potential community partnerships. Terwilliger reached out to East River Legal Services and gave an update on how they operate their services to clients. The commission discussed other opportunities including a Title IX representative, Dr. Damon Alvey from Vermillion Public Schools, Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR), and the Rural Office of Community Services (ROCS).

7. Standing Business

7a. The commission discussed the upcoming event on August 24, GatherED. This will be held the first Thursday after USD students return to Vermillion, and it is a welcome event held in conjunction with Thursdays on the Platz. The commission stated they would like to have a table for this event, and it was encouraged that commission members attend if they are able to. Prescott added the potential need to provide notice if there is a quorum at this event, but no official business will be handled.

7b. Bonstrom discussed the future proclamation process. There was conversation about a disability proclamation in the coming month. Discussion followed.

8. Adjourn

It was noted that the next meeting will be held September 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Moved by Mandernach to adjourn, seconded by Rider. Motion carried unanimously at 6:36 p.m.

Jordan Bonstrom, Chair

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Vermillion Human Relations Commission