



Human Relations Commission Agenda

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 16, 2021

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. July 8, 2021
4. **Visitors to be Heard**
5. **Old Business**
 - a. Land Acknowledgement Statement
 - b. Update on definition of “Sex” under law
 - c. Update on Home Rule Charter & other Municipal HRCs
 - d. Update on addition of VHRC Line Item
6. **New Business**
7. **Adjourn**

Access the Human Relations Commission Agenda on the web – 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 Mayor 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 governing body 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 accommodations, 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.

Unapproved Minutes
Human Relations Commission
Thursday, July 8, 2021 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 7:08 p.m. Vice-Chair Hess was chair this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Shannon Cole, Wendy Hess, Jordan Bonstrom, Bentou Kamara (Via Zoom)

Absent: Jerry Yutrzenka, Brenda Fergen, Alexis Oskolkoff

Staff present: John Prescott, City Manager; Stone Conley, City Management Assistant

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Hess motioned to approve the agenda with two additions made by Cole, seconded by Cole. Roll call: Cole-Y, Hess-Y, Bonstrom-Y, Kamara-Y. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes

3a. Cole moved to approve the May 6, 2021 minutes, seconded by Bonstrom. Roll call: Cole-Y, Hess-Y, Bonstrom-Y, Kamara-Y. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Visitors to be Heard

4a. None

5. Old Business

- a. Land Acknowledgement Statement
- b. Discussion of definition of Sex
- c. Discussion of HRC and other Municipal HRCs
- d. Discussion of VHRC Line Item

5a. Hess continued the discussion of drafting a proper Land Acknowledgement statement on behalf of the HRC. This draft could also be utilized by the City. Cole would like to possibly see it used at Council Meetings and on the city website. HRC Members voiced their opinions on what was good and bad of the current USD and Shakespeare Festival Land Acknowledgement statements. Would like positive language, leaving out "cannot" and language such as "past, present, future". Cole and Bonstrom will review old emails and report next meeting. Bonstrom will reach out to the proper Native council. Would also like the inclusion of the local Vermillion Tribes' names included.

5b. Hess stated the EEOC has updated their current definition of Sex on their website. Says the state has not updated the website on their end. There was an interest among the commissioners to change

ordinances that do not include or fully protect those based on gender or sexual orientation. Hess will compile a list to summarize these ideas and references to the topic.

5c. No update to report. Discussion of adding other classes of protected people such as military, familial status, and sexual orientation. Discussion will continue at next meeting. Hess would like a contact of the Brookings HRC to discuss this topic.

5d. Cole would like the City to incorporate a VHRC Line Item on the annual budget. It was discussed that their possibly be \$200-300 for supplies to assist with information and advertisement. Prescott said he would look into the addition of the line item. City interns may be tasked with the assignment of looking for opportunities.

6. New Business

- a. Discussion of Community Education/Outreach Planning
- b. Complaints Discussion

6a. Bentou stated she would like to have a larger online social media presence and to also see a monthly posting on the Facebook page. Cole supported this idea and believes that the VHRC should partner with already established events and/or groups within the City. Discussion of a possible tabling on August at the final Thursday on the Platz. Bonstrom will try to post to social media more. Bonstrom and Bentou have been tasked with assisting the management of social media for the VHRC and with regards to outreach to USD.

6b. Cole would like to have a link of the complaint/intake forms online and readily available for the public. Cole would also like to re-format the flowchart for the intake process. Conley will assist with the city's Administrative Assistant to upload these files to the city's website.

7. Adjourn

Moved by Bonstrom to adjourn, seconded by Cole. Roll call: Cole-Y, Hess-Y, Bonstrom-Y, Kamara-Y. Motion carried unanimously at 8:20.

Shannon Cole, Chair

Vermillion Human Relations Commission

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the lands of the Oceti Sakowin and Omaha Tribal Nations and we thank them as the past, present, and future stewards of this land.

We extend thanks and gratitude to our partners and sponsors who have contributed to producing this season of the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival. The SDSF would not be possible without the generous contributions of these sponsors.

Show Producer

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Black Hills Playhouse
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South Dakota Community Foundation
Walmart Foundation, Vermillion
USD Department of English
USD Marketing, Communication
and University Relations

Carol & Tom Geu, *in honor of
Chaya Gordon-Bland*
Joel Held, *in honor & memory of
Ronald Leeper*
Rich & Nell Holland
Evelyn & George Schlenker
Betty Smith
Joe Stollenwerk
Susan & Doug Tuve, *in honor of
Chaya Gordon-Bland*



Please recycle your playbills at any of the exit receptacles

We cannot focus on our future without first recognizing our past. It's important to recognize that USD exists on the ancestral lands of Native American tribes whose heritage and culture continue to enrich our community to this day.

It is with profound respect that we acknowledge the indigenous peoples of this land.

