

Unapproved Minutes
Human Relations Commission
Thursday, March 3, 2022 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 5:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Shannon Cole, Wendy Hess (via Zoom), Jerry Yutrzenka (via Zoom), Brenda Fergen (5:12 pm), Jordan Bonstrom

Absent: Alexis Oskolkoff, Student Representative (Vacant)

Staff Present: John Prescott, City Manager; Stone Conley, Assistant to the City Manager

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Bonstrom motioned to approve the agenda with the changes of adding new member recruitment and update on brochure to New Business noted, seconded by Yutrzenka. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of the Minutes

2a. Cole moved to approve the February 3, 2022 regular meeting minutes seconded by Bonstrom. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Visitors to be Heard

3a. None

4. Old Business

4a. Cole has drafted a list and gone through local elders for guidance on the land acknowledgement statement. Dr. Cheeseman will be contacted with an informal request, with a formal meeting later. Discussions will continue.

4b. Hess and Bonstrom drafted a list of those who may fall under the classification of protected classes and those they may want to contact regarding listening sessions. An email and in-person form of contact will occur. The draft email will be sent to HRC members to edit. Hess would also like for HRC members and those being emailed to connect the commission with local community leaders. The goal is to find someone who will facilitate the listening session. Hess would like a date set for the event. Cole states that late April or early May would be best overall. Bonstrom agrees with the timeframe. Cole would like a set of possible candidates by next meeting. Hess will reach out to Oskolkoff as well for her opinion. Yutrzenka would like to contact the local high school. He also would like the list to contain a variety of

people. Fergen would also like to consider international students.

5. New Business

5a. Cole and Hess both have terms that will expire this year. A student representative will also be needed as well. Bonstrom will contact USD faculty to reach out to students. Applications open March 21st and close on April 14th. Cole would like members to personally ask people to express interest.

5b. Cole talked with Dr. Julia Hellwege of USD and found that a student would like to help the HRC for a community action project. The student asked if the HRC would fund printing to create brochures regarding the HRC. The HRC will wait on a quote then move forward. Cole will contact the interested student.

6. Standing Business

a. Hess said that on March 21st the law school will have a Native American Symposium. All are welcomed to attend this event. Cole stated that this year the Annual Wacipi is the first weekend in April at the Sanford Coyote Sports Center. She also stated that the airing of Selma at the Coyote Twin for MLK Day was a success.

7. Adjourn

Moved by Yutrzenka to adjourn, seconded by Hess. Motion carried unanimously at 5:50 p.m.

Shannon Cole, Chair

Vermillion Human Relations Commission