

Unapproved Minutes
Human Relations Commission
Thursday, April 6, 2023 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 5:36 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Jordan Bonstrom, Michelle Kavanaugh, Becky Rider, Mike Phelan, Trevor Mandernach (via zoom at 5:39 pm)

Absent: Alexis Oskolkoff, Student Representative Deidre Whiteman,

Staff Present: John Prescott, City Manager

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Kavanaugh motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Rider. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Rider motioned to approve the March 2, 2023 minutes, seconded by Phelan. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Visitors to be Heard

Damon Leader Charge, Jayda Knuppe, Rachel Overstreet, Megan Red Shirt-Shaw, and John Little presented information on the different events that are part of the 2023 Wacipi scheduled for April 15 and 16, 2023. It was noted that the 2024 event will be the 50th anniversary. The Human Relations Commission was invited to participate in the Grand March. The importance of advertising the event and letting the public know that all are welcome to attend was a focus of the discussion.

5. Old Business

5a. Bonstrom stated that the Land Acknowledgement statement has been emailed to the City Council. Two Council members responded that the Council will be reviewing the information in the future.

5b. Bonstrom, Rider, and Mandernach attended the recent listening session. Attendance was low with only four people attending but a couple of common themes may be arising from the two sessions. Discussion was held on potentially attending already existing group meetings vs. setting up a listening session and asking people to come to the Commission to visit.

5c. No report on this topic. May discuss at the next meeting.

6. New Business

6a Reviewed a letter from the City Attorney which noted that the Vermillion ordinances covered more classes vs. the Brookings'

non-discrimination ordinance. The City Attorney noted the only difference had to do with city contractor obligations.

6b. Bonstrom had the list of the potential locations for the Muslim student group which the Commission had brainstormed at the March meeting and had toured one location. No further update.

6c. Discussed Commission attendance. Commissioner Oskolkoff has not attended a meeting since September 2022. Bonstrom reached out to her about continuing to serve but had not heard back. The Commission is requesting that the City Council replace Commissioner Oskolkoff as she has missed more than four consecutive meetings without communicating a reason. There is one year left on Commissioner Oskolkoff's term. The City Council will be considering two three-year term appointments and the one-year student term at their April 17, 2023 meeting. Commission members were encouraged to let people know about the openings.

7. Standing Business

7a. The Wacipi was covered at the start of the meeting. Earth Day events were noted.

8. Adjourn

Moved by Phelen to adjourn, seconded by Rider. Motion carried unanimously at 7:03 p.m.

Jordan Bonstrom, Chair

Vermillion Human Relations Commission