

Unapproved Minutes
Human Relations Commission
Thursday, April 7, 2022 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 5:06 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Shannon Cole (5:22 pm), Wendy Hess, Jerry Yutrzenka, Brenda Fergen, Jordan Bonstrom, Alexis Oskolkoff (via Zoom)

Absent: 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, seconded by Fergen. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of the Minutes

2a. Yutrzenka moved to approve the March 3, 2022 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Fergen. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Visitors to be Heard

3a. None

4. Old Business

4a. Cole has spoken with Damon Leader Charge regarding the Land Acknowledgement statement, and he reached out to USD's native representatives. Next meeting discussions will continue, and more comments will be coming in the near future. Cole would also like to compare it to USD's statement but make the City's its own individual one. Progress will continue at the next meeting.

4b. Hess and Bonstrom drafted a template for the listening session. Hess would like to figure out a date to establish the listening session. Fergen agrees and believes one should be set in stone. The HRC would like to also figure out who would be in attendance for the event. Would possibly like to have Native and African American members of the community to attend. Oskolkoff stated she will assist with the event. Hess wants to figure out the questions/facilitation format. She would like it to be specific regarding the groups in attendance. Hess wonders if it should be one or multiple groups focused on at the event. Cole thinks starting with indigenous groups first then moving onto others, the group agrees. Mark Daniels may be asked to facilitate the event. Yutrzenka and Oskolkoff both agree Daniels would be

good at facilitating. Cole stated that early May would be a good time for this. The HRC felt that a weeknight would be most beneficial. Cole may see about reserving the upstairs of the Bean Coffeeshop at 6 W. Main Street. Hess will contact the Brookings HRC to see what questions they utilized for their event. She will also contact Mark Daniels. Oskolkoff will asked Dr. Gary Cheeseman as well if needed.

4c. Multiple terms including the Student Representative spot are coming up for renewal (2 three-year terms, 1 one-year term, and 1 one-year student term). The HRC discussed different methods for how to recruit prospective members to the commission. Due to the April 14th timeline for the May 5th meeting, members will continue to follow up with those possibly interested in joining. Members will utilize social media to promote it.

4d. The HRC reviewed changes made to the HRC brochure on behalf of a USD student for their civic engagement project. The USD students who created them will also assist in distributing them

5. New Business

5a. Hess will be looking to touch up ordinances regarding the HRC, but to include more inclusive language (they/them instead of he/she).

6. Standing Business

a. Cole stated that the week of April 20th there will be a showing of "Bring her Home" as a part of the Cultural Wellness Coalition's MMIW support week (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women) at the Coyote Twin. Festival of Nations is this week on campus. Earth week is the week of April 18th. Alongside this, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. ICARE is hosting an event on April 20th in Farber Hall at USD at 1:00 pm. USD Spectrum on April 25th will also be playing a Movie at the Coyote Twin.

7. Adjourn

Moved by Cole to adjourn, seconded by Fergen. Motion carried unanimously at 5:56 p.m.

Shannon Cole, Chair

Vermillion Human Relations Commission