

Unapproved Minutes
Human Relations Commission
Thursday, May 6, 2021 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order via Zoom on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Shannon Cole, Wendy Hess, Jordan Bonstrom, Jerry Yutrzenka, Brenda Fergen, Alexis Oskolkoff, Bentou Kamara

Absent: None

Staff present: James Purdy, Assistant City Manager

2. Adoption of the Agenda

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

3. Approval of the Minutes

3a. Yutrzenka moved to approve the November 5, 2020 minutes, seconded by Bonstrom. Roll call: Cole-Y, Hess-Y, Bonstrom-Y, Oskolkoff-Y, Yutrzenka-Y, Kamara-Y. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Visitors to be Heard

4a. None

5. Old Business

- a. Commission Transition
- b. Land Acknowledgement Statement

5a. The Commissioners did a round of introductions, and welcomed Oskolkoff and Kamara to the group. The Commission discussed the need to elect officers for the upcoming year. Motion by Yutrzenka to nominate Cole as chair and Hess as vice-chair, seconded by Fergen. Roll call: Cole-Y, Hess-Y, Bonstrom-Y, Oskolkoff-Y, Yutrzenka-Y, Kamara-Y. Motion carried unanimously.

5b. The Commission noted to the new commissioners that they have been asked by the City Council to come up with this statement. Oskolkoff noted that the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival just finished their land acknowledgment statement that will be used this summer. Oskolkoff will forward that to the group so it can be compared to the draft statement the Commission has been working on. Commissioners noted that USD has been utilizing theirs, and that it has been used at larger events like convocations. The Commissioners noted that it will be important to think about when and how the City would be utilizing theirs.

6. New Business

a. Future Planning

6a. The Commission discussed meeting dates and times. The Commission will continue meeting on the first Thursday of every other month at 7:00. The committee will meet July 8th, rather than July 1st, to avoid conflicts related to the holiday weekend. The meeting schedule was laid out as follows: July 8th, September 2nd, November 4th, January 6th, March 3rd, and May 5th.

The following project ideas for 2021-2022 were stated:

- Land acknowledgement statement
- Updating ordinance based on EEOC definition of sex
- Municipal Equality Index
- A budget for printing and/or advertising educational events

Commissioners will bring their ideas to the next meeting. The meeting will be held in-person with a virtual option.

7. Adjourn

Moved by Fergen to adjourn, seconded by Bonstrom. Roll call: Cole-Y, Hess-Y, Bonstrom-Y, Oskolkoff-Y, Yutrzenka-Y, Kamara-Y. Motion carried unanimously at 8:31.

Shannon Cole, Chair

Vermillion Human Relations Commission