

Unapproved Minutes  
Human Relations Commission  
Thursday, July 9, 2020 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order via Zoom on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 7:02 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Shannon Cole, Wendy Hess, Jordan Bonstrom, Brenda Fergen, Codylee Riedmann (7:03), Jerry Yutrzenka, Calvin Petersen (did not vote due to technical difficulties)

Absent:

Staff present: John Prescott, City Manager; James Purdy, Assistant City Manager

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Cole motioned to approve the agenda seconded by Yutrzenka. Roll call: Cole-Y, Hess-Y, Bonstrom-Y, Fergen-Y, Riedmann-Y, Yutrzenka-Y. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes

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

4. Visitors to be Heard

Former Chair Travis Letellier was present as a representative from the USD Office of Diversity and Inclusion. He will be attending many of the Commission's meetings as a guest.

5. Old Business

- a. Oath of Confidentiality.
- b. Schedule of Meetings.
- c. Land Acknowledgment Statement.
- d. Home Rule Update.

5a. All new members must complete the Oath as soon as possible. It is not necessary to sign the oath in the presence of the City Manager.

5b. The commission discussed the meeting times and dates. It was agreed that the meetings would begin at 7:30 p.m. and take place the first Thursday of every other month. The meeting schedule is as followed:

September 3rd  
November 5<sup>th</sup>  
January 7<sup>th</sup>  
March 4<sup>th</sup>  
May 5<sup>th</sup>

In May the commissioners rotating off will be Riedmann, Petersen, and Bonstrom.

5c. The Commission discussed a recent Supreme Court Decision upholding indigenous land rights in Oklahoma, which may affect South Dakota in the future. The Commission discussed two different styles of land acknowledgment statements that were enclosed in the meeting packet. Cole and Bonstrom will work on putting a draft of the land acknowledgment statement together. The Commission would like the draft to be reviewed by someone with the USD Native American Cultural Center.

5d. Background was given on the Home Rule Charter. Home Rule would be a reversal of Dillon's Rule, in that a City would be able to do whatever is not explicitly prohibited by the state, rather than only what the state explicitly permits. The Human Relations Commission is interested in Home Rule and the draft charter being developed because of potential opportunities to enhance anti-discrimination protections within the City. The Commission wishes to work with the Home Rule Charter Committee on educating the public about Home Rule and its potential applications. The Commission will work on putting together a frequently asked questions (FAQ) sheet, in regards to Home Rule and human rights/relations.

## 6. New Business

### a. Anti-Racism Training Opportunity

6a. The Commission discussed the possibility of entering into a partnership with the USD Executive Committee for some anti-racism training. There is interest among both USD and the City to provide this type of training to employees. The Commissioners were asked to research non-profits in the region that may offer this type of training.

The Juneteenth sidewalk chalking event was a major success. The Commission will also discuss a possible statement in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 7:30pm.

## 7. Adjourn

Moved by Yutrzenka to adjourn, seconded by Hess. Roll call: Bonstrom-Y, Cole-Y, Fergen-Y, Hess-Y, Reidmann-Y, Yutrzenka-Y. Motion carried unanimously at 8:06 p.m.

Shannon Cole, Chair

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Vermillion Human Relations Commission