

Unapproved Minutes
Human Relations Commission
Thursday, August 3, 2023 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order on Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Jordan Bonstrom, Michelle Kavanaugh (via Zoom), Trevor Mandernach, Mike Phelan, Becky Rider, Phil Terwilliger, Cameron Morgan

Staff Present: John Prescott, City Manager, Jack Baustian, Assistant to the City Manager, Lt. Drew Gortmaker, Vermillion Police Dept. Investigations Lieutenant

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Phelan suggested adding 5c. Students Rights Pamphlet to the agenda. Rider moved to adopt the agenda with the addition, seconded by Mandernach. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Phelan motioned to approve the June 1, 2023 minutes, seconded by Rider. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Visitors to be Heard

Lt. Drew Gortmaker, VPD Investigations Lieutenant, shared background about the Vermillion Police Department and how his position as the LGBTQ+ liaison between the Commission and the VPD can be helpful moving forward. Lt. Gortmaker shared the status of VPD and how the training process for new officers looks. Discussion followed.

5. Old Business

5a. Bonstrom updated the commission on the purchasing of a tablecloth for community tabling events. He stated that the vendor he was going through was closing their business and asked the commission for different vendor options. Kavanaugh stated she was willing to take the lead on creating and purchasing a tablecloth with a deadline of August 24, 2023.

5b. Bonstrom stated that at the July 6, 2023 meeting, there was discussion on purchasing nametags for community events to increase visibility. Kavanaugh offered to take lead on the creation and purchase of nametags for the commission with a deadline of August 24, 2023.

5c. Phelan stated that the Students Right Pamphlet needed to be revised and reprinted for distribution. He stated he would have these revisions completed and ready for review by August 6, 2023.

6. New Business

6a. Bonstrom provided the commission with an update on future listening sessions. Commission members discussed points of contact for each group they look to invite, and it was agreed upon that the International Student group would be reached out to for September, Native American group in October, and Veterans group in November.

6b. Bonstrom suggested discussion about potential community partnerships. Terwilliger reached out to East River Legal Services and gave an update on how they operate their services to clients. The commission discussed other opportunities including a Title IX representative, Dr. Damon Alvey from Vermillion Public Schools, Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR), and the Rural Office of Community Services (ROCS).

7. Standing Business

7a. The commission discussed the upcoming event on August 24, GatherED. This will be held the first Thursday after USD students return to Vermillion, and it is a welcome event held in conjunction with Thursdays on the Platz. The commission stated they would like to have a table for this event, and it was encouraged that commission members attend if they are able to. Prescott added the potential need to provide notice if there is a quorum at this event, but no official business will be handled.

7b. Bonstrom discussed the future proclamation process. There was conversation about a disability proclamation in the coming month. Discussion followed.

8. Adjourn

It was noted that the next meeting will be held September 7th at 5:30 p.m.

Moved by Mandernach to adjourn, seconded by Rider. Motion carried unanimously at 6:36 p.m.

Jordan Bonstrom, Chair

Vermillion Human Relations Commission