

Unapproved Minutes
Human Relations Commission
Thursday, September 3, 2020 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order via Zoom on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Shannon Cole, Wendy Hess, Jordan Bonstrom, Brenda Fergen, Codylee Riedmann, Jerry Yutrzenka, Calvin Petersen (present at City Hall)

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, Petersen-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, Petersen-Y, Yutrzenka-Y, Cole-Y. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Visitors to be Heard

5. Old Business

a. Land Acknowledgment Statement.

b. Home Rule Update.

c. Potential Intercultural Development Inventory Testing Partnership.

5a. Cole noted that there is a brief land acknowledgment statement on the side of the theatre which could be used as a guide. Bonstrom stated that he found a lengthier land acknowledgment from the University of North Dakota. The Commission discussed the need to receive feedback from members of the indigenous community. Riedmann suggested merging the shorter and longer statements as a compromise. The Commission will be reaching out to indigenous leaders in the community for assistance in crafting this statement.

5b. The Home Rule Charter will be on the municipal ballot for the general election in November. Cole discussed the need to educate the public about Home Rule, and its potential benefits. The Home Rule Charter committee has a couple speaking engagements scheduled, and the Commission could advertise those on social media, and also participate in the upcoming civic themed Thursdays on the Platz. There may be an opportunity for a USD student to assist with a social media based education campaign regarding the Home Rule Charter.

5c. Over the past couple months the Commission has discussed entering into a partnership with USD to conduct some anti-discrimination training. One option that was presented to the Commission during the meeting is called Intercultural Development Inventory Testing. This is an inward focused training which helps participants identify and attempt to reconcile their personal biases. Currently USD has two certified administrators on campus, and will potentially have a third. The Commission will approach USD to ask if those administrators could assist the City/Commission in administering the program to participants. It is possible that the City/Committee may need to pay to certify its own administrator if there is both a desire to participate, and the financial resources to certify a Commissioner or City staff member.

6. New Business

- a. LGBT Liaisons Title Changes
- b. Citizen Review of Force Panel Discussion

6a. City staff reported that the two LGBT Liaisons for the City (Chad Passick and James Purdy) have had their titles changed to Human Relations Liaisons in an effort to be more inclusive.

6b. The Commission discussed the potential to further develop this idea. The Commission would like to have a representative from the VPD Command Staff attend a future meeting to discuss the efficacy of this type of panel in the community.

The next meeting will be at a date TBD next month.

7. Adjourn

Moved by Hess to adjourn, seconded by Petersen. Roll call: Bonstrom-Y, Cole-Y, Fergen-Y, Hess-Y, Petersen-Y, Reidmann-Y, Yutrzenka-Y. Motion carried unanimously at 8:36 p.m.

Shannon Cole, Chair

Vermillion Human Relations Commission