

Unapproved Minutes
Human Relations Commission
Thursday September 5, 2019 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order in the Large Conference Room at City Hall on September 5, 2019 at 7:01 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Travis Letellier, Jolly Omar, Wendy Hess, Lamont Sellers, Calvin Petersen, Shannon Cole

Absent: Mark Daniels

Staff present:

James Purdy, Assistant City Manager

John Prescott, City Manager

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Lamont Sellers motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Calvin Petersen. Motion carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes

3a. Wendy Hess moved to approve the 8.1.19 minutes, seconded by Lamont Sellers. Motion carried.

4. Visitors to be Heard

Tonya, an exchange student from Moscow, is here to learn about the City, and become involved in the community.

5. Old Business

a. New Oaths of Confidentiality

b. Role of Mediation in HRC Timeline

5a. City Staff will email Oaths of Confidentiality for Jolly Omar and Wendy Hess to complete.

5b. Chair Travis Letellier stated that he and fellow Commissioner Calvin Petersen had a very productive discussion regarding the role of mediation in the HRC ADR (alternative dispute resolution) timeline. Travis and Calvin are proposing adding mediation as an option in the ADR process after a complaint has been verified and filed.

City Staff would like the City Attorney to review Travis' proposal. The Commission also discussed language in the Brookings Human Relations Commission ADR, where the term 'conciliation' is used, rather than mediation. The Commission discussed the differences between mediation and conciliation, and Travis will revise some language in his proposal to outline conciliation in the ADR so that may also be reviewed by the HRC and City Attorney.

6. New Business

- a. Update on Home Rule Study Committee
- b. Upcoming Educational Opportunities

6a. Travis Letellier, also on the Home Rule Study Committee, stated that the first meeting of the committee took place August 20th. The Committee is currently reviewing all of the active home rule charters in South Dakota. The committee will then compare and contrast the charters, and interview municipal officials from around the state. The next meeting of the Committee is September 17th.

6b. Lamont Sellers discussed with the Commission the AIM (American Identity Movement) posters that appeared on USD's campus the past week. There were six different posters with no contact information or meeting dates, only imagery.

The Commission discussed multiple events coming up in the community such as:

- A free showing of the movie *Milk* at the Coyote Twin Theatre on October 28th from 7:00-9:00 PM.
- A Civil Rights in South Dakota Panel at the Al Neuharth Media Center at USD on September 12th at 4:00 PM.
- On September 26th, Sister Teresa Anne from Watertown will be holding a discussion on the Humanitarian Crisis at the US-Mexico Border at 7:00 PM, location TBD.
- On November 20th, Activities for Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Commission members are encouraged to attend these events, and educate members in the community about the Commission. Jolly Omar stated that he has created a Vermillion Human Relations Commission Facebook page, which can also be used to educate the public about the Commission and upcoming events in the community.

7. Adjourn

Moved by Calvin Petersen to adjourn, seconded by Shannon Cole. Motion carried at 8:15 p.m.

Travis Letellier, Chair

Vermillion Human Relations Commission