

Unapproved Minutes
Human Relations Commission
Thursday, October 1, 2020 Special Meeting

The special meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order via Zoom on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Shannon Cole, Wendy Hess, Jordan Bonstrom, Brenda Fergen, Codylee Riedmann, Jerry Yutrzenka, Calvin Petersen

Absent:

Staff present: John Prescott, City Manager; James Purdy, Assistant City Manager; Matt Betzen, Chief of Police; Chad Passick, VPD Captain

2. Adoption of the Agenda

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

4. Visitors to be Heard

4a. Matt Betzen and Chad Passick with the Vermillion Police Department were present. The members of the Commission introduced themselves and provided their backgrounds. Betzen stated that community engagement is a major focus of the department. Betzen also stated that the department's long-term strategic plan includes a citizen advisory board or committee, along with other community engagement strategies. Passick provided some details on the amount of training the department puts its officers through. While the state requires 40 hours of training every two years, Vermillion PD averages around 100 hours per officer per year, with around 30 of those hours being spent on community engagement/diversity related trainings. Betzen and Passick discussed the different training models the department uses for new officers, and provided an overview of the department's process for internal investigations and civilian complaints. The department looks forward to a continued relationship with the Commission, and hopes the Commission can assist in some training efforts in the future.

5. Old Business

- a. Home Rule Education
- b. Implicit Bias/Potential Intercultural Development Inventory Testing
- c. Land Acknowledgment Statement

5a. Dr. Card of the Home Rule Charter committee and several members of the Commission were present at a Thursdays on the Platz event handing out educational information on Home Rule. The Commission discussed additional educational efforts they wished to undertake, such as distributing an electronic version of the handout, and providing the handout to patrons of the Community Connection Center. It was noted that Dr. Card has a couple speaking engagements scheduled during the month of October including presenting at the Vermillion Rotary Club and at UPNEXT coffee hour. Cole noted that there will be an upcoming issue of the Plain Talk that will be discussing issues related to the election, including the prospective Home Rule Charter.

5b. Travis Letellier, USD liaison to the HRC, stated that the USD executive committee met and began the Intercultural Development Inventory training. Letellier stated that the initial group results were presented to the committee earlier in the week. The next step will be one-on-one meetings between the committee members and the certified trainers. Letellier reported that USD was also encouraging staff to complete implicit bias assessments through Project Implicit. James Purdy, Assistant City Manager reported that on Tuesday morning City Administration directed City Department Heads to also complete the implicit bias assessments and provide administration with some reflection. Betzen and Passick also stated that they had discussed these assessments internally and are planning on having front-line staff in the police department complete them as well.

5c. The Commission discussed a land acknowledgment statement that was sent out by Cole. The statement is one sentence, and utilizes an overarching term for all of the individual indigenous groups that have inhabited the area. Cole stated that she would like to discuss the statement further with indigenous leaders in the community, and report back to the Commission.

6. New Business

None

The next regular meeting will be November 5th at 7:30.

7. Adjourn

Moved by Hess to adjourn, seconded by Fergen. Roll call: Bonstrom-Y, Cole-Y, Fergen-Y, Hess-Y, Petersen-Y, Reidmann-Y, Yutrzeuka-Y. Motion carried unanimously at 8:42 p.m.

Shannon Cole, Chair

Vermillion Human Relations Commission