

Human Relations Commission
CMO Conference Room
519 Washington
Minutes
February 26, 2019

Meeting called to order by Werksma at 5:35pm.

Present: Louann Werksma, Christian Hudson, Barbara VanHorsen, Rhonda Kleyn, Alyson Brummitt, Reyna Masko, Chloe Weigel and Wes McGee

Absent: Dennis Swartout and Lindsay Hartman

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved with the addition of information about the Spanish Heritage Festival. Motion to approve by VanHorsen, seconded by Weigel, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved motion by Hudson, seconded by Masko, all in favor.

Welcome Guests: N/A

There was no business under the general call to the audience.

Old Business

- a. Dinner and Dialogue-Kleyn reviewed the February dinner and dialogue event held at Gracious Grounds. It was well attended, reviews of the event were positive, a couple of attendees indicated they would be interested in being part of a sub-committee to help plan the events. Werksma is going to follow up with them as she plans a sub-committee meeting. The review led to a conversation about the lack of transportation options in the area which prevents non-drivers from participating in community events. Masko spoke about the plan to move the court house business to the Fillmore complex, which is a major concern when there is not public transportation to that area. Seems to add to the struggles of low income households. It was suggested that conversations could be had with county commissioners to address concerns. Perhaps the court house move could be a catalyst to move along the transportation issues.
- b. Dinner and Dialogue Sponsorship updates-Werksma reported the commission has been offered a \$1,000 anonymous donation. Werksma is also going to update last year's donors and follow up with their commitment of sponsoring for two years. Masko is going to speak with Workforce and Holly Cole about sponsorships. Werksma explained that if we keep the budget to \$250 per dinner we could have 6 dinners in 2019. It is time to have a sub-committee meeting and make a plan. Weigel reported the GHACF YAC group is ready to sponsor an event as soon as plans are made for the next youth dinner and dialogue. The group agreed the Community Center or the Momentum Center are both good spots to hold a dinner.
- c. Publicity Updates-Kleyn and Werksma participated in an interview with WGHN for their Sunday morning forum, there is no word on when the interview will air. The request from WGHN for an

interview came about after the GH Tribune interviewed commission members about the LEDA sponsorship.

- d. Leadership transition and training-Werksma explained she is still hoping Swartout will take over the chair position in July and would like to do some “switch over” training. No other members have offered to be the commission chair.
- e. Goals and Planning-Masko indicated she has plans to meet with Tommy Allen from the Grand Rapids Human Relations Commission in March. They have a community event every three years with an award presentation. There is thought that perhaps the Grand Haven commission may be able to model some activities of that group. Werksma also asked how we can implement some housing affordability action steps. Kleyn reported that at this time the best steps are to advocate with community leaders. Also, there is a zoning ordinance update taking place and showing support to community leaders for more inclusionary zoning ordinances will be helpful.
- f. Summit on Race and Inclusion-Werksma asked how many commission members plan to attend the event this year. Werksma made a motion suggesting that Weigel and Hudson be the two commission members allowed use of the sponsorship attendance spots, seconded by VanHorsssen, all in favor. Masko is going to send out the summit information so commission members can decide if they are able to volunteer at the event.

New Business

- a. Calling all Colors Expo-Weigel updated the group on the upcoming event taking place at GH High School. The key note speaker will be Patrick Moran. They are hoping for more vendors, Masko provided some resources as possible vendors. Werksma and McGee will attend on behalf of HRC; Werksma to create signs and handouts with help from Kleyn.
- b. Boards and Commissions Dinner-Werksma reminded the group that the annual dinner will be held at the GH Community Center on Tuesday, April 30.
- c. March; women’s history month-Werksma asked if anyone has any events for her to share on Facebook. She also shared what she has been posting regarding black history month.
- d. Social Justice Award-Masko and McGee did not have an update for the group.
- e. Spanish Heritage Festival-The event will be held in Central Park on September 21, 2019. Masko reported she has a meeting with Char Seise on March 5 and expects to have more information after that. Masko would like to see a committee of St Johns church members, HRC members and county staff come together to plan the event. Werksma volunteered to attend the event on behalf of HRC.
- f. Agency Updates-VanHorsssen reported about all of the events happening through the Momentum Center. Their book club is going well, next one March 8. The February Inspire event was again well attended. The next event is March 16 and the topic is prisoner re-entry. They will be showing the movie, Returning Citizens. VanHorsssen is working with community members from Ottawa and Muskegon counties to hold cultural immersion “across the bridge” events. March 7 at 4pm there is a community event at Hope College, the lecturer is Frank Albee, the topic is “reframing the narrative”.

Motion to adjourn by Weigel seconded by Hudson, all in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm

Next meeting is Thursday March 28, 2019