

Human Relations Commission
CMO Conference Room
519 Washington
Minutes
April 25, 2019

Called to order, 6:15

Present-Werksma, Kleyn, Hudson, VanHorsen, McGee, Masko, Brummitt

Absent-Swartout, Weigel, Hartman

Motion to approve the agenda made by Hudson, seconded by Masko. All in favor.

Motion to approve the minutes made by McGee, seconded by Hudson. All in favor.

Guests-Alexa Redick and Nancy Owens

Call to Audience-Nancy Owens of C3 spoke about the support from C3 for the HRC's Dinner and Dialogue events. Their group is particularly supportive of the topic of immigration; the experience of people who have immigrated to Grand Haven. This fits with C3's vision and they would like to partner for a Dinner and Dialogue event. They would provide \$250 for an event.

A complaint from a Spring Lake resident; a New Business agenda item; was discussed at this time. VanHorsen received information from a Spring Lake resident about her mistreatment from a Spring Lake Public Safety officer. The resident felt threatened while walking in the Village, went into a store and asked an employee to dial 911 for her. When the officer arrived he did not take the complaint seriously, was very condescending, going so far as to tell the store clerk that if she continued to bother anyone at the store he would put the resident in jail. While this is not an official HRC incident because it is outside of the City of Grand Haven, the group felt some action could support sensitivity of all residents. VanHorsen shared that she spoke with Christine Burns, the Spring Lake Village Manager and the Chief of Public Safety who were both receptive and demonstrated support for the resident. VanHorsen is going to write a letter to the editor of the Grand Haven Tribune highlighting the need for sensitivity of invisible illnesses.

Old Business:

- A. Dinner and Dialogue Next Steps. The events need a sub-committee and a chair. Brummitt and McGee tentatively agreed to be co-chairs. There will be a planning meeting held within the next month to get plans in motion for more event. There are sponsorship funds for the events.
- B. Chair Transition and Training. Werksma continues to ask for a volunteer to take over as Chair. So far there is not a volunteer.
- C. LEDA Summit. June 11, 2019, moved to Hope College. McGee is going to use the free attendance ticket if both of the student members are not able to go. The free ticket is a result of the City of Grand Haven \$1,000 sponsorship.
- D. Social Justice Award. Masko reported there is sub-committee formed that will meet to discuss the award.

- E. Hispanic Heritage Festival. This event will be held in Grand Haven's Central Park on September 28. Masko reported that the committee is assigning each volunteer to chair one task.

New Business:

- A. HRC Applicants and Renewals. Kleyn there are 3 student applications for the 2 open positions. Samuel Woitesnek, Angela Tran and Gabrielle Scott. An application for Alexa Redick to fill the position vacated by the resigning Lindsay Hartman. And the renewal application from Wes McGee. There is no news as to the status of these appointments.
- B. Review of open meetings act. Kleyn reminded members of the importance of attendance. If a meeting is not going to have a quorum ideally it needs to be announced 18 hours before the time of the meeting. Whenever possible members should inform the chair of their absence before the day of the meeting.
- C. Budget Update. Nothing to report.
- D. Buc's Blade Article. Hudson wrote a moving article for the GH High School newspaper about his experience as an HRC member. It was agreed that he should submit the article to the GH Tribune as a guest article.
- E. Agency Updates. VanHorsen asked for HRC volunteers at an ACES event on Monday, June 3 at the GH Community Center from 6:30 to 9.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 pm