

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

Meeting called to order by Werksma at 5:38 pm.

Present: Louann Werksma, Rhonda Kleyn, Alexa Redick, Sam Woitesheck, Wes McGee, Angela Tran and Reyna Masko. Quorum in place.

Absent: Dennis Swartout, Alyson Brummitt, Barbara VanHorsen

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved, motion by Masko, seconded by Redick, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes of July meeting: Minutes approved, motion by Tran, seconded by Woitesheck, all in favor.

Welcome Guests: Ryan Cummins. Cummins is running for a City Council position and is attending all City boards and commission meetings to learn what the City is doing and to introduce himself.

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

Old Business

- a. **Dinner and Dialogue**-Reported that community member Becky Moleski is no longer able to host a dinner. McGee is reaching out to other community members who have indicated an interest. A D&D event is scheduled December 5, 2019 on the topic of immigration to be held at St Johns church. No other events are scheduled at this time. The group was reminded of the importance of follow through as the community has given the Commission sponsorship money in support of the events and the HRC needs to remain committed to the mission of the dinners and the goal of a certain number per year.
- b. **Hispanic Heritage Fiesta(HHF)** -Werksma explained the responsibilities and the role of the HRC at the Fiesta. Werksma also explained she has created a prize basket and a drawing for those who fill out D&D forms indicating interest in attending or hosting a Dinner and Dialogue event. Masko reported she raised \$20,000 for the Fiesta, any extra funds will go to the Migrant Resource Council. Masko explained the goal of the HHF is to bring communities together and celebrate the Hispanic community. The HHF is a collaboration of St. John's Episcopal Church's El Corazon Latino Ministry, City of Grand Haven, the GH Human Relations Commission and Greater Ottawa County United Way. The event will have a Mercado composed of 27 merchants and information booths as well as 10 food vendors, 12 hours of live entertainment, kids' activities and much more. The GH High School Bucs Blade will have a photographer at the event and will share photos with the organizers. Tran volunteered to take photos for the HRC. A Crazy Hour is planned for the last hour of the Fiesta, from 9-10 pm; Masko explained this is a fun dancing and singing hour in which 60 songs play in 60 minutes. In the event of rain the Fiesta will be held in

the Community Center. Werksma and Redick explained the set up and the location of the welcome tent and the volunteer tent. Werksma went over the schedule of HRC members who will staff the HRC booth in the Mercado.

- c. **Loutit Library Partnership**-Werksma gave an update about the partnership with the library. The month of September they are displaying books and other materials honoring Hispanic Heritage month.
- d. **Robyn Afrik**-Werksma informed the group that Robyn Afrik, the new Ottawa County Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, will be attending the Commission's December 19, 2019 meeting. Werksma also reminded the group to register for the Ottawa County Diversity Forum to be held at the Holland Civic Center on November 15, the cost to attend is \$40. A motion was made by Werksma and seconded by Redick to approve the Commission paying the attendance fee for new HRC members Redick, Tran and Woitesheck. After checking her calendar, Redick advised she was unable to attend after all so the motion was amended to provide \$80 for the attendance fees of the new student commissioners, if they are available to attend. All in favor. **Masko announced she will attend a GH City Council meeting to invite all of the members to attend the Diversity Forum.** This year the focus of the forum is supporting municipalities/government entities and other employers and organizations in the county in their efforts towards diversity, equity and inclusion.

New Business

- a. Emergency Contact Forms-Kleyn asked each member to complete a form for the City records. Those present completed theirs and gave them to Kleyn.
- b. Budget – Kleyn gave a budget update and reminded the group that the funds the Commission currently has were donated specifically for Dinner and Dialogue events. The group is looking for an update from Swartout regarding the 2019 Scholten and Fant donation. Kleyn and Werksma are continuing their efforts to get an update regarding the commission's 2019-20 budget request of \$1,500 from the City finance department.
- c. Commission Activities and Workload; Leadership Transition-Werksma again requested someone step up to relieve her of the role as Chairperson for the group. Werksma also discussed creating a strategic plan. The group wants to have a visionary award, Dinner and Dialogue events and a Fiesta each year; Werksma suggested this is a lot of great work and takes a lot of dedication to complete, so work is needed to determine how projects will be planned, implemented, and sustained.
- d. Correspondence sent/received-None this month.
- e. Agency Updates – Kleyn briefly reported the home rehab success her department has achieved this calendar year.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.; motion by Masko, seconded by McGee, all in favor

Next meeting is Thursday October 24, 2019, 5:30 p.m.