

Human Relations Commission
CMO Conference Room
519 Washington
Minutes
January 23, 2020

Meeting called to order by Masko at 5:39 pm.

Present: Rhonda Kleyn, Sam Woitesheck, Wes McGee, Alyson Brummitt, Barbara VanHorsen, Reyna Masko, Alexa Redick

Absent: Dennis Swartout, Angela Tran and Louann Werksma

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved with the change of moving Dinner and Dialogue guest surveys and Remembrance Project community responses to old business. Motion by Brummitt, seconded by Woitesheck, all in favor

Approval of Minutes December Minutes approved motion by Redick, seconded by Brummitt, all in favor.

Welcome Guests: Eric Inlaw, City Manager Pat McGinnis and Mayor, Bob Monetza

Eric Inlaw is a resident of the City of Grand Haven and was invited by HRC member McGee. Eric likes to learn know what is going on in his community.

Pat McGinnis handed out copies of the book, Just Mercy. He invited HRC members to an event taking place at Odd Side Ales at which he will be a guest speaker. The event is to review the book and takes place February 27 at 7pm.

Mayor Monetza attended to learn more about the activities of the HRC. Mayor Monetza also reminded the members of an important County Board of Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, January 28. The Commissioners will vote to approve (or not) a proposed resolution to offer Ottawa County's consent to initial refugee resettlement in Ottawa County pursuant to President Trump's Executive Order.

General call to the audience-none

Old Business

- a. **Dinner and Dialogue Update-**Subcommittee did not have anything to report. Masko asked that the group work out a process of collaborating with sponsors and decide next steps.
- b. **Visionary Award-**Masko reported City Manager McGinnis and Mayor Monetza approved the HRC presenting the newly created visionary award at the annual boards and commissions dinner. Next steps are ordering the awards and promoting the award to get nominations. Masko provided information about a potential artist for creating the awards. His name is Erick

Picardo. He will create a 12X18 size oil painting on canvas to be put on the large wooden plaque for the annual award winners. This award will have room for new name plates each year and will hang in City Hall. The awards to be given to the winners will be 8X10 plaques with an oil painting as well. The 12x18 will cost \$280 the first year and the 8x10 plaques will be \$83 each. The artist will give rights to the HRC to recreate his images for future years. The cost for future years will be the cost of the individual award winner plaques and the cost of the name plates for the large plaque. The commission will request the funds for the first year, \$450 be paid by the City. A motion to approve Erick Picardo as the artist and the proposed costs was made by Redick, seconded by McGee, all in favor.

- c. **Remembrance Project responses**-Masko shared that the over whelming response to the Remembrance Project display at the Loutit Library was mostly in favor of not displaying materials created by hate groups. A few responses were in favor of the display.
- d. **Survey results of December Dinner and Dialogue**-Members reviewed the surveys via email, no other conversation was had.

New Business

- a. **GHHHF updates**-Masko reported the special event application for the summer concert fundraiser is in process; that they are working closely with Char Seise to get it approved. Kleyn provided information about the application process when an event is being planned by the HRC. An attachment will briefly explain the special event process. A motion was made by McGee to hold a special meeting to vote on the GH Hispanic Heritage Fiesta summer concert fundraiser on February 6, 2020 at 6:30. Seconded by Redick, all in favor.
- b. **Ottawa County Board of Commissioners meeting reminder**-Masko reminded the group that an important vote will take place Tuesday, January 28 at 1:30 pm allowing or not allowing Ottawa County's consent to initial refugee resettlement in Ottawa County pursuant to President Trump's Executive Order.
- c. **Revenue and Expense update**-Kleyn provided the revenue and expense report.
- d. **February Black History Month**-McGee reported that he spoke with library staff and learned that should the HRC members want to plan events at Loutit Library for black history month they will have to start planning about 6 months prior with library staff. Kleyn will add this item to the June, 2020 HRC agenda.
- e. **Annual Report Review**-Kleyn provided some information that was learned after Werksma sent the preliminary annual report which will be in the annual report. No other comments from the group.
- f. **Strategic Planning Event**-Masko explained the strategic planning will help the commission meet its goals. It was decided to conduct the strategic planning at the regular February 27 HRC meeting but the meeting will go from 4:30 to 8:30. Werksma will contact Al Vandenberg, the Ottawa County Administrator, to ask if will facilitate the meeting. Kleyn will provide dinner.

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

Next meeting is Thursday February 27, 4:30 pm.