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

Present: Rhonda Kley, Barbara VanHorsen, Louann Werksma, Madigan Lautzenheiser, Shyle Lyons, Shannon Farmer

Absent: Dennis Swartout, Reyna Masko, Wes McGee, Angela Tran and Alexa Redick

Approval of Agenda: Motion by VanHorsen, Seconded by Farmer, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of August 27, 2020 approved; motion by VanHorsen, seconded by Lautzenheiser, all in favor.

Welcome Guests: Mayor, Bob Monetza and City Council Member, Mike Dora. Zac VanOsitol of City of Grand Haven operating the Zoom and monitoring Facebook Livestream.

General call to the audience-At this time guests were allowed to call in and post questions via Facebook chat. No comments at this time.

Old Business
a. Town Hall and Anti-Racism Task Force Update-VanHorsen gave an update regarding the October Town Hall: “Talking About Racism scheduled for September 28 at 6:30 via Zoom. The panelists will be George Barfield, Deanna Rollfs, and Angelica Colon. October’s topic is racism in the media. November’s topic will be racism in the criminal justice system. The suggested book for September is “So You Want to Talk About Race” VanHorsen explained that they don’t recommend a book because a book review is a structured part of the town hall but rather it can add depth to the conversation.

b. Visionary Award Update-Sub-committee members Masko and Redick were not present at the meeting. Werksma read a written update from Masko. See attached. Subsequently, Madigan Lautzenheiser volunteered to work on getting youth nominations.

c. Hispanic Fiesta Update-Sub-committee members Masko and McGee were not present at the meeting. Werksma read a written update from Masko. See attached.

d. Strategic Plan Update-Sub-committee member Masko not present. Werksma communicated that Masko is waiting for a response from Al Vandenberg, County Administrator, about possible dates to continue the strategic planning process.

New Business
a. Communication/Correspondence
   i. Lyons reported that the HRC’s social media engagement is up. She is managing both the Facebook and Instagram accounts for HRC.
   ii. Two events took place in Grand Haven recently; a candlelight vigil honoring the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg and a march for justice for murder victim Breonna Taylor. Both events were very positive.
   iii. Werksma reported she has spoken with Village of Spring Lake Manager, Christine Burns, who says she is interested in the Village becoming involved in the work of the Human Relations Commission. She suggested Werksma get in touch with Spring Lake’s Assistant Village Manager, DeMario Johnson, and Werksma will follow up.
iv. Following the appearance at the August meeting by resident Leslie Armentrout, Werksma met with her and they had a substantial discussion about human relations issues. Armentrout gave Werksma the name of a neighbor who she said is interested in getting involved in HRC; and Werksma will follow up.

b. Liaison Updates - No liaisons present. At this time Werksma shared that Michigan has a new executive order declaring racism a public health crisis. Farmer stated she is willing to be the liaison for the HRC regarding the order.

c. 21-day equity challenge response/follow-up - Werksma reported that the United Way’s event received lots of good/positive feedback and it will be a permanent feature on the ottawaunitedway.org website for companies, organizations and individuals to engage in on their own schedule.

d. Policy and Procedure Revisions - Tabled, sub-committee members not present.

e. Agency Updates - 1. VanHorssen shared the date for the ribbon cutting ceremony for Just Goods retail store at the Depot. 2. VanHorssen also reported that she attended the Michigan County Social Services Administration’s annual conference. It was noted during the event that the Governor’s Executive Directive 2020-09, issued in August, declared racism a public health crisis. Conference participants were encouraged to return to our own counties and communities and advocate for them to also declare Racism a Public Health Crisis. VanHorssen recommends the Human Relations Commission seek to have the City of Grand Haven make this declaration and provide, wherever appropriate, our support of Ottawa County doing the same. 3. Kleyn presented details about a new 32 single family home development planned for Grand Haven. 17 of the homes are planned for affordable and 15 will be sold at market rate. A community land trust is being planned through Kleyn’s Grand Haven neighborhood housing department to keep them affordable in perpetuity. It will be the first community land trust in West Michigan and the first development of its kind in Grand Haven. Kleyn answered questions about a planned development at the corner of Third Street and Columbus. This building is being developed into market rate, high end apartments.

f. Werksma shared a Grand Haven Tribune article about a historical marker being planned in Ferrysburg in tribute to 19th century Black citizen Hezekiah Smith, who developed a successful orchard and for whom Smith’s Bayou is named. There will be a dedication ceremony for the marker on August 13, 2021.

Second Call to the Audience - Council Member Dora informed the group that Denny Swartout, Grand Haven resident and HRC member was on local radio station WAWL, 103.5 discussing the history of the Ferrysburg Smith Bridge. The show will air again Saturday the 26th at 9:30am. Mayor Monetza informed the group that all City of Grand Haven staff members are participating in Cultural Intelligence training. Werksma asked Mayor Monetza if the City of Grand Haven has any plans to adopt an LGBTQ non-discrimination ordinance similar to that which the City of Holland passed over the summer. Monetza stated he would like to see the details of Holland’s clause before he responds. Werksma offered to get him a copy.

Motion to adjourn at 6:43 by Lyons, seconded by Farmer, all in favor.

Next meeting October 22, 2020 via Zoom

ATTACHMENT – Report in Absentia from Reyna Masko

Visionary Award – We have not yet received any new visionary award youth nominations. We know there are youth out there doing DEI/Social Justice work and we need someone to acknowledge their work. We will wrap up nominations soon and announce them at our November meeting. If we do not get a youth nominated we will just pick one adult winner.

Hispanic Fiesta: It is going GREAT! Most restaurants are giving back positive feedback. A couple of them have sold out their special dish or drink. Our facebook page has been getting a lot of traffic and likes. Some of our Dance lessons have received over 400 views so hopefully people are taking advantage of this opportunity on their own time not just at the
time that it goes live. The Tribune and Wood TV have done stories/articles on it. We are very happy with results. Remember Saturday is our Food Truck/Food Vendor day. We have 4 participating businesses so they will all be located at the County parking lots off Washington and Franklin.

We are having a parade of flags at 10:45 am at Central Park. We have the Latin Americans United for Progress Adelante and Mas Adelante Students as our special guests to carry the flags and place them around the water fountain as we did last year.