Human Relations Commission  
Remote via Zoom  
Live streamed via Facebook  
Minutes of October 22, 2020 Regular Meeting

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

Present: , Barbara Lee VanHorssen, Louann Werksma, Madigan Lautzenheiser, Shyle Lyons, Dennis Swartout, Reyna Masko, Wes McGee, Angela Tran and Alexa Redick

Absent: Rhonda Kleyn, Shannon Farmer.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Swartout, Seconded by VanHorssen, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of September 24th, 2020 approved; motion by Swartout, seconded by VanHorssen, all in favor.

Welcome Guests: Ben Knight, Ashley Latsch of City of Grand Haven operating the Zoom and monitoring Facebook Livestream. Mayor Bob Monetza joined at 6:02pm. Mike Dora joined after 6pm as well.

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.

Liaison Reports: Ben Knight has completed a training which is helping to update the Loutit District Library collection of books to ensure that there is representation from all backgrounds - they are going to come up with a language to identify who is identified in the book. They are using the term ‘own voices’ to express that black people can talk about black experiences better, Native Americans can talk about Native American voices better. They also have new lockers that will be coming soon; they’re being installed now for contactless 24 hour a day pickup in the parking garage area.

Liaison Reports: (Continued) Lt. Adams was not present, but Werksma read his emailed report regarding the Zoom bombing at the Town Hall. Detective Rausch served a preserve order so nothing could be destroyed and have sent the search warrant to Zoom. They do not know how long it will take to know anything and they are not often successful. Werksma also brought up the recent order by the secretary of state banning open carry of weapons within 100 ft of polling places on Election Day and also mentioned that news outlets are reporting that both the Chief of Police Association in Michigan and the Sheriff Association are claiming it is not enforceable. Werksma said she had asked Lt. Adams if GHPSD is planning to enforce and does not have an answer yet. Mayor Monetza said he would also ask Chief Hawke about it.

Old Business

a. Town Hall and Anti-Racism Task Force Update- VanHorssen gave an update regarding the next town hall Monday Oct 26 at 6:30 p.m. via zoom - Racism and the Media. C.E. Sikkenga, GHHS
teacher, Kylie Ambu, Wzzm news anchor, and Holland Sentinel Executive editor Sarah Leach are the panelists. VanHorssen has met with GHAPS, which is allowing them to use GHAPS license to have five hosts on Zoom and that will increase their options of eliminating Hackers or, if they do get in, of quickly kicking them out. If someone registers for the meeting and is intending to inflict harm they can get through - VanHorssen will be issuing a warning about prior hacking - and they will have two people from GHAPS whose full job is to identify hackers and remove them. They are prepared so they can deal with it immediately. The hijack did allow media coverage and spread the word about the town hall. Topic for November Town Hall is - Ethnic Intimidation - November 23rd.

b. Visionary Award Update - Subcommittee members Masko and Lautzenheiser. Still have no youth nominations. Masko will email HR commissioners to see if they wish to present the award. The presentation would be preserved via video to share during the December meeting. Lautzenheiser has reached out to friends to ask for youth nominations. Due date is November 5th. Lautzenheiser will also check with Lauren, youth advisory committee coordinator at Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, on nominations.

c. Hispanic Fiesta Update - Subcommittee member Masko reported that all restaurants want to participate again next year, so they will do the restaurant week again. They are presenting the restaurant winner who raised the most money soon. They think they will have around $6000 to donate to Lighthouse Immigration Advocates. Friday and Saturday, September 24 and 25, 2021 are the dates set for third annual Fiesta, and the entire week (beginning Monday Sept. 20) will be restaurant week. Hope to use the Community Center for an art show and dance classes.

d. Strategic Plan Update - Subcommittee member Masko reported that Al Vanderberg, County Administrator, has set a date of November 19th from 5:30 - 8pm as the next strategic planning meeting. This will be a working meeting, with only strategic planning on the agenda. Werksma questioned whether a motion was required. Monetza responded that all meetings are open to the public, but do not have to take input from the public if it is a work session. We will record any comments, but will not respond. There will be one call to the audience. We will plan to go a bit later than a normal meeting. Each member needs to respond to the invite to attend. Masko asked Werksma to make sure everyone who needs to be included is included. Masko will reach out to Vanderberg to confirm if we need to do anything further. Liaisons are welcome as well. Werksma will invite them via email and resend everyone the work product from the first strategic planning session, held in February.

e. Policy and Procedure Revisions - Swartout and Tran report. They have been working to connect. Ryan Cummings, City Council member, is also willing to help. Swartout would like our feedback as to input and areas of concern. Swartout will put that invite out to the group. Werksma reported that a young woman of color was assaulted in a store and told to go back to where she came from - this highlights the need for the complaint form and making the community aware of it. Masko added that outlining follow up expectations is extremely important. She believes that people do not file complaints because they have come to expect no results when they do.

New Business

a. Communication/Correspondence - Lyons reported that the HRC's social media post reach is up 125%. She is managing both the Facebook and Instagram accounts for HRC. There were 11 posts in October. 4,100 people were reached with the post on the Town
Hall with 11 shares. So far 3 commissioners—Van Horssen, Farmer and Redick—have been highlighted on the HRC pages. Lyons sent questionnaires to all HRC commissioners and urges them to return. She also will send questions for the spotlights to the liaisons.

Lyons reported that she is working on a Diversity Video with Momentum Center volunteer Carey Korpi and GHAPS staff Dennis Threadgill is editing it. It is a recitation of the Diversity Statement that HRC developed and City of GH adopted in 2019. Many community leaders are part of the video and Momentum Center hopes to use it as a preamble to the town halls, and the city will use it on social media as well.

Werksma reported a conversation with SL city manager Chris Burns who is interested in having Spring Lake Village participate in HRC work in some way. She recommended that Werksma contact her assistant, DeMario Johnson, and Werksma and Johnson are scheduled to talk via telephone on 10-23. Werksma also received an email from Matt Maloney, CEO of GrubHub who has moved to GH saying that he is interested becoming involved in our work. She invited him to attend HRC meetings and sent him a link to register for the town hall. Werksma reported communication with Mayor; she requested and received from Holland City Manager Keith Van Beek the text of the LGBTQ non discrimination ordinance passed in Holland in July. Monetza read it and is up to speed on what they have done - he is curious to know what the basis for the ordinance is and what can be adopted or if it is symbolic - which is better than nothing. He appreciates this being brought up. Mayor wants to see protection for LGBTQ community members.

b. City of Grand Haven’s response to Executive Directive 2020-09 on racism as a public health crisis - Farmer was to report - she is absent. Monetza reported that we generally rely on the county public health department inasmuch as the city does not have its own health department. Would the commission like to work though the city or county? Van Horssen reported that we could ask the city to take formal action to recommend to the county that racism is a public health crisis.

c. Agency updates: Van Horssen updated that the Momentum Center with covid screenings and precautions has been moving back to in person activities in support of its members. Also still operates the micro-pantry. Just Goods Fair Trade Store has moved to the Depot building on Harbor Drive and greatly expanded its space and merchandise in the hope of becoming a significant source of revenue to support the work of The Momentum Center. They are training members to run the Momentum Late, which remains open at the Columbus Ave. location. Werksma reported that, due to the overwhelmingly positive response to its 21 Day Equity Challenge in August and September, Greater Ottawa County United Way has created and posted on its website (www.ottawaunitedway.org) a 5 day challenge that organizations and individuals can do at their own pace. Lautzenheiser reported that the deadline for grants to be submitted to the Youth Advisory Council of GHACF was last week - they will be reviewed next week. Werksma shared about the Anti-Racism library on The Momentum Center
website. Lautzenheiser is working on a social media push for youth mental health support and awareness on the YAC Instagram page. Redick reported that Children's Advocacy Center’s forensic interview services are up 105% since kids are back in school. Dora reported that he appreciates everything that HRC is doing and he is there to help anytime.

Second Call to the Audience - no comments.

Motion to adjourn at 6:44 by Swartout, seconded by Masko, all in favor.

Next meeting November 19th 2020 via Zoom at 5:30 p.m.