

CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
REGULAR HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Grand Haven Human Relations Commission was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Co-Chairperson Keith Colson in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 519 Washington Ave.

Present: Commission Members Annie Baker, Keith Colson, Wes McGee, Avery Rant, and Louann Werksma.

Absent: Chairperson Emily Nail

Others Present: City Clerk Maria Boersma

Approval of the Agenda

Baker moved, seconded by Werksma to approve the agenda.

Motion approved unanimously.

Call to the Audience

Old Business

Commissioner Werksma reported on the City Council's approval of the recommendations and report made by the Human Relations Commission in regards to a complaint of alleged discrimination.

Commissioner Rant reported on the MLK Day of Service event with Grand Haven Schools and the City for Kids Food Basket. About 425 bags were packed and over 2000 bags were decorated.

New Business

The Human Relations Commission worked on creating a draft resolution to submit to City Council Reaffirming the City of Grand Haven's statement on Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

Werksma moved, seconded by Rant to accept the draft resolution of the City's reaffirmation to the commitment of diversity equity and inclusion. The final accepted resolution will be presented to council at their February Meeting. **Attachment A**

Roll Call Vote:

This motion carried unanimously.

The Human Relations Commission discussed goals for 2023. Below is a list of projects the Commission discussed.

- MLK Day of Service
- Placing Pride Flags Downtown
- Hispanic Heritage Festival
- Recruitment
- Visionary Award
- Creation of a Diversity Equity and Inclusion Fair
- Creation of a Humans of Grand Haven Fair

The Commissioners discussed picking 2 or 3 goals to prioritize for the year. They would like to continue the discussion at their next meeting.

Second Call to the Audience

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

The Next Human Relations Committee Meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2023.



Maria Boersma, City Clerk

Attachment A

Resolution Reaffirming the City of Grand Haven's DEI Values

WHEREAS the **Diversity Statement of the City of Grand Haven** states:

The City of Grand Haven respects, values and celebrates the unique attributes, characteristics and perspectives that make people who they are. The pillars of equity, diversity and inclusion are vital to a vibrant community, and we believe that bringing diverse individuals together and encouraging all voices to be heard allows us to build a stronger community. The City of Grand Haven upholds these pillars as crucial to healthy people and a healthy community;

And, **WHEREAS** the City of Grand Haven was fully supportive of the establishment of a Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in Ottawa County; and, once the DEI Office was opened, worked with it to deploy resources at the community level—resources that helped our City employees and citizen volunteers to understand differences and bridge divides among people;

And **WHEREAS** the Ottawa County DEI Department was eliminated by majority vote of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners on January 3, 2023;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

While we regret the loss of these resources and our partnership with Ottawa County in this important work, the City of Grand Haven reaffirms the tenets of its Diversity Statement and its commitment to making our City a welcoming, inclusive, and accessible community for all.

Catherine McNally, Mayor

Maria Boersma, City Clerk