

MINUTES
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
THURSDAY, January 17, 2019

- 1) Commissioner Ramaker **called the meeting to order** at 7:13 pm in the Olmsted County Government Center, Room 4.

Commissioner	Karen MacLaughlin, Vice-Chair	present
Commissioner	Jennifer Belisle, Treasurer	present
Commissioner	Barry Skolnick	present
Commissioner	Rey Caban	absent
Commissioner	Daniel Dogo-Esekie	absent
Commissioner	Carrie Osowski	Present
Commissioner	Kindra Ramaker, Chair	present
Commissioner	Sandra Banuelos	present
Commissioner	Manal Abbadi	present
Youth Commissioner	Marcus Yao	absent
Youth Commissioner	Christine Farnberg	absent
County Commissioner	Gregg Wright	present
County Commissioner	Sheila Kiscaden	absent
Mediation and Conflict Solutions	Wendy Moore, Director	present
Olmsted County Administration	Brittney Marschall, Administrative Coordinator	present

- 2) **No public comment:** In lieu of public comment, the commission did round table introductions.

- 3) **Consensus on agenda:** Commissioner Ramaker asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Belisle moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Osowski seconded.

7/0 motion passes.

Commissioner Ramaker asked to add the Secretary role onto the agenda for discussion. Commissioner Belisle moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Osowski seconded.

7/0 motion passes.

- 4) **Minutes:** Commissioner Ramaker asked for a motion to approve the minutes with two minor changes from the December 20, 2018 meeting. Commissioner MacLaughlin moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Osowski seconded.

7/0 motion passes.

Secretary Position: the chair discussed this position with other commission members and agreed that there was still a need for this position to:

1. Track membership and terms
2. A neutral role to bring back to the commission missed attendance by other commissioners
3. Take pressure off the chair to take roll

Discussion: Commissioner Skolnick spoke about his experience with city boards/commissions. He noted that with the exception of one entity, staff is the person who manages the minutes, tracks membership, etc. There is also one other exception in that the secretary signs off on the minutes.

Commissioner MacLaughlin suggests keeping the provision that if there wasn't staff support having a way to designate a commission member to take on the role of secretary.

Action Item: Ask staff (Brittney Marschall) to provide language from other commissions and ask the County Attorney's Office and bring back to the commission at a later date.

Skolnick moved to table the topic of Secretary and County staff provide copies of what other boards/commissions do for secretary. MacLaughlin seconded.

7/0 motion passes.

Bylaws

If there are changes to language in the Bylaws by the County Attorney's Office the Commission would like a summary or explanation of why. The commission is asking that the Bylaws subcommittee be brought into the discussion.

Commissioner Ramaker asked for motion to either continue to talk about the bylaws or table it until Administration and County Attorney meets as the bylaw workgroup. Commissioner Manal expressed that it is really important to keep the identity of the commission.

Commissioner Osowski moved to table the discussion of the bylaws. Banuelos seconded

Revised Motion: Commissioner Osowski moved to table the discussion of the bylaws as drafted and presented last month in light of upcoming discussions with county staff regarding all of the county board/commission bylaws and to resume the discussion when we have draft from county staff to incorporate into existing draft that was presented last meeting. Commissioner Skolnick seconded the revised motion.

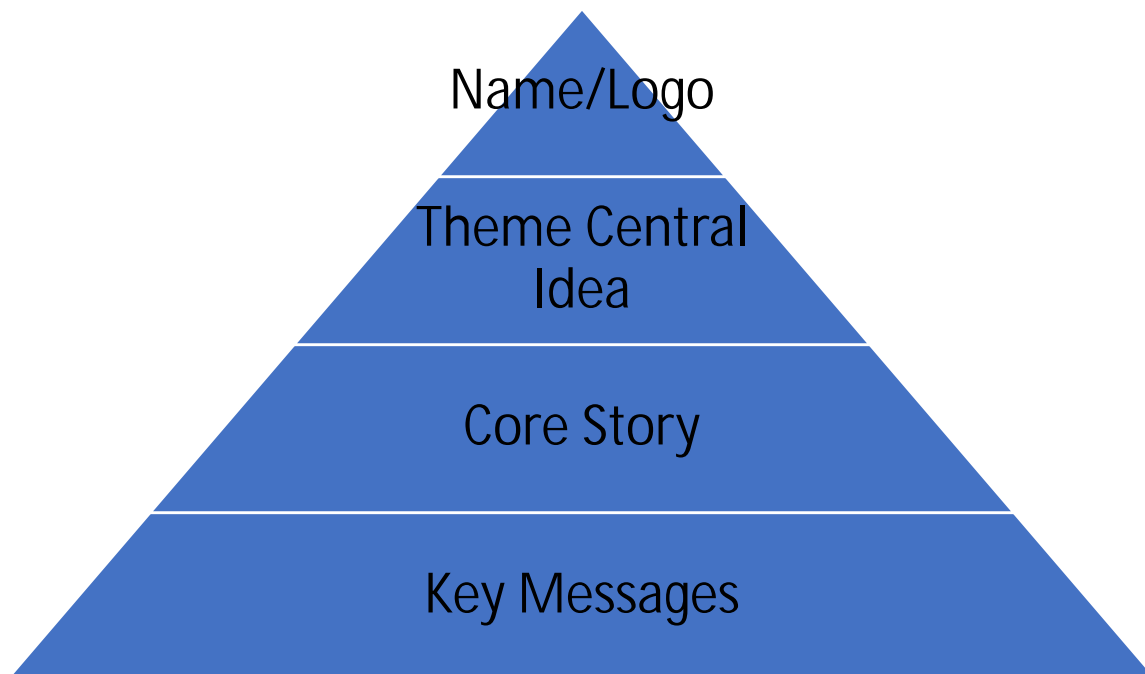
4/3 Motion passes.

Communication Strategy

Commission Ramaker presented the updates to the Communications strategy and asked for a motion to approve the Communication plan for 2019 and submission to County Administration for review. Commissioner MacLaughlin moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Belisle seconded.

7/0 motion passes.

Commission Ramaker had a conversation with a PR firm called Grey Duck. She presented the initial strategy which looks something like this as a starting point. Commissioner Ramaker will reach out to a total of 3 vendors for proposals with the potential budget of \$1500



Ramaker: Are we ready to engage? How do we engage? How much budget?

Commissioner Belisle commented on the budget: "In general, we have dollars in our budget. There is a county allocation to us. It is money that is set aside for the commission to spend up to a certain amount. For the sake of this conversation, the commission does have enough."

1. **Informational Item (s):**

History of the Commission: Commissioner Belisle share some of the commissions history to include the following highlights:

- the commission started In the 60s.
- In the middle of 1997 the Rochester Human Rights Commission went to the City Council and made a proposal that the city

ordinance was not matching the state ordinance, specifically regarding protections on Lesbian and Gay, persons with disabilities and protected class based on age. At the time it was declined. At the same time there was a county effort and they felt strongly about it and one of the proposals at the time the County asked to have a county wide HRC. So, the city had to dissolve the group and the County form the HRC.

- This year is the 20th anniversary of the HRC.

Treasurer's Report- Commissioner Belisle met with Finance Staff at the County, Anita Greden to review the budget. The budget has been in place for about 20 years. We receive a check from the City for 6K\$ which finance staff requests about mid-year. The county's allocation is up to \$26,600. When looked at, there are some line items that are outdated. For example, the membership and dues line item. The biggest investment is an annual contribution to mediation and conflict solutions and also funds that go into the county phone line that gets transferred to conflict solutions. Some of the things that we have spent money on are going to conferences, honorariums, sponsorships or tabling for events. Last year, HRC spent \$1,100. There are still a couple of outstanding expenses. The hard deadline is Feb 13th to get those into Finance. There is approx. \$7,000 left in the budget. Last year, the commission asked for unspent money from 2017 to 2018 and then didn't spend it.

Adjourn: Commissioner Manal made a motion to Adjourn, Commissioner MacLaughlin seconded.

7/0 Motion passes.