

MINUTES
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
THURSDAY, February 21, 2019

- 1) Commissioner Ramaker **called the meeting to order** at 7:05 pm in the Olmsted County Government Center, Room 4.

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| Commissioner | Karen MacLaughlin, Vice-Chair | present |
| Commissioner | Jennifer Belisle, Treasurer | present |
| Commissioner | Barry Skolnick | present |
| Commissioner | Rey Caban | present |
| Commissioner | Daniel Dogo-Esekie | present |
| Commissioner | Carrie Osowski | present |
| Commissioner | Kindra Ramaker, Chair | present |
| Commissioner | Sandra Banuelos | absent |
| Commissioner | Manal Abbadi | present |
| Youth Commissioner | Marcus Yao | absent |
| Youth Commissioner | Christine Farnberg | present |
| 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:** Commissioner Ramaker introduced a guest, Wale Elegbede

- 3) **Consensus on agenda:** Commissioner Caban suggested bringing in the Police Chief to discuss the hiring process and plans for working with the commission. Commissioner Ramaker asked to bring this topic up during roundtable. Commissioner Ramaker asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Belisle moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Osowski seconded.

6/0 motion passes.

- 4) **Minutes:** Commissioner Ramaker asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner MacLaughlin moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Manal seconded.

7/0 motion passes.

5. Action Items

HRC Member Term Limits

Commissioner Ramaker reviewed the Term Limit handout and explained that staff liaison Brittney Marschall is having to go back into Board records and account for gaps in term limits.

HRC Commissioner Application Process

John Orbeck has applied to be on the commission and will interview before the Board of Commissioners on March 19th. The process for this includes an initial review on the First Board Day of each month by the Administrative Management Team which reviews the applications for all commissions and recommends to the full County Board. Interviews take place on the Second Board Day of the month.

2019 Budget

Commissioner Belisle reviewed the 2019 Budget.

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|----------|--|---------------|
| Revenue | Olmsted Co Tax Levy | 26,600 |
| | City of Rochester | 6,000 |
| | | 32,600 |
| | | |
| Expenses | Mediation and Conflict Solutions | 25,000 |
| | HRC Phone Line | 650 |
| | Communication | 3,000 |
| | Events/Sponsorships | 1,500 |
| | Commissioner training, conferences, speakers | 1500 |
| | Commissioner Stipends, meeting expenses | 950 |
| | | 32,600 |

Update on Communications Strategy

Commissioners Ramaker, Caban, and Osowski met with Grey Duck to get more information about the services they offer around communications and marketing. Grey Duck would come to the March meeting to present their proposal to the commission.

One of the preliminary recommendations was to have business cards with HRC information and engage or think about utilizing Social Media as a platform for getting information to the public.

Commission members shared feedback and initial thoughts on the Grey Duck proposal. The subcommittee will go back to Grey Duck and ask for an altered proposal based on the feedback.

2019 Event Calendar

The commission talked about upcoming events that they might want to table at or attend to include:

- IMAA Walk around the World (April)

- Juneteenth (June)
- Pride (Sept)
- IMAA Pearl Gala
- Legal Assistance Fundraisers (March)
- NAACP Dinner
- MLK Breakfast
- Project Community Connect
- PACE Rally (August)

Look for other events in Stewartville, Chatfield, Byron, etc. Commissioner Ramaker suggested that a commissioner volunteer to track and keep the commission informed in advance of these event.

Youth Commission Tent Event

Youth Commissioner Farnberg talked about an event the Youth Commission is working on and asked that member share information about the event and volunteer to sit at the booth if that is of interest. The event is April 13-16th at Graham Park. The Youth Commission is also asking for sponsorship in the amount of \$100.

Commissioner Belisle moved to approve the sponsorship up to \$100 dollars with supporting documentation and Commissioner MacLaughlin seconded the motion.

6/0 motion passes.

6. Informational Items

OCHRC History Continued

Commissioner Belisle talked more about the history of the commission and asked that members talk about the fact that this is the 20th years the commission has been established as a talking point.

LaCrosse Hate Crime

Wale Elegbede joined the commission as a guest this evening and talked about his work as a co-found of the [La Crosse Interfaith shoulder to shoulder](#). He talked about the hate crime that happened in La Crosse last week. Link to News and Information:

- https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/police-racist-graffiti-on-la-crosse-business-being-investigated-as/article_0dd1ae41-6c2a-5595-b186-54cfac3a57f.html
- https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/tribcast-how-la-crosse-responded-to-a-hate-crime/article_e4c01475-ae3a-528a-9d1a-b20d57b463ef.html
- https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/people-of-la-crosse-decry-hate-crime-targeting-muslim-business/article_c695ced3-0b09-595b-ad2c-8392a4981b44.html
- <https://lacrossepd.org/2019/02/11/la-crosse-police-investigate-hate-crime/>

Legal Aid Banquet

Saturday March 9th is the Legal Assistance of Olmsted County Banquet Fundraiser. The cost is \$90 per ticket and the theme is "Night in Monte Carlo". The commission hasn't sponsored this event in the past but this year the event is more broadened to the community. The sponsorship is \$300 and comes with 2 tickets. They are also accepting donations for the live and silent auction.

Commissioner Dogo-Esekie moved to approve a sponsorship of \$300 as long as it is within the guidelines of what the commission has done in the past. Manal seconded

3/4 Motion Fails.

1 abstention

Q&A for Mediation Services

Wendy Moore gave an overview of the cases. 2 are active and 2 are closed.

Updates from Commissioners (Roundtable)

Police Chief Visit: Commissioner Caban suggested that the commission have the new police chief come in to talk about his philosophy, expanding diversity within the department, and when issues arise around discrimination and how he would plan to address that. Commissioner Ramaker will reach out to the chief, copy Caban and try to schedule for April or May. Commissioner Belisle suggested to ask him to join to lay the groundwork and understanding of the commission's work and his work and potentially an eventual public forum or community event.

Governor Walz Budget: He just announced his budget and is proposing an increase in Human Rights Budget and also proposing an office in Rochester. Rochester Public School Board met this week and the superintendent distributed data on discipline which indicated that the numbers are going in the wrong direction, disparities are getting worse not better. There is a superintendent listening session next Monday, February 25th and if commissioners can attend to please do so.

Enhanced Driver's License and Homeless: Commissioner Manal brought this topic up and would like to add it to the next agenda.

7. Adjourn

Commissioner Caban made a motion to Adjourn, Commissioner MacLaughlin seconded.

6/0 Motion passes.