

**MINUTES
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
THURSDAY, March 21, 2019**

- 1) Commissioner MacLaughlin **called the meeting to order** at 7:08 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	present
Commissioner	Daniel Dogo-Esekie	absent
Commissioner	Carrie Osowski	present
Commissioner	Kindra Ramaker, Chair	absent
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

- 3) **Consensus on agenda:** Commissioner Belisle request to move the League of MN Human Rights Commission dues from action to information and add Rochester Public Schools and disparities under action. Commissioner Skolnick requested to add an informational item for the State Commission Meeting and communications. Commissioner Belisle moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Osowski seconded.

6/0 motion passes.

- 4) **Minutes:** Commissioner MacLaughlin asked for a motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Belisle moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Osowski seconded.

6/0 motion passes.

5. Action Items

Commissioner Lucero's Visit to Rochester and Letter of Support

Commission Belisle gave an overview of Commissioners Lucero's visit to Rochester. Highlights from the meeting include the Governor's budget and inclusion in the budget of an office in Rochester.

Commissioner Oswoski made a motion to replicate the letter of support. Commissioner Abbadi seconded.

6/0 passes

State Commission Meeting communications

Commissioner Skolnick noted for the record that he felt uncomfortable about the communications that went out requesting that people purchase lunch from Fiddlehead on the day that Commissioner Lucero visited and held a public meeting at this location. He expressed that he felt it was inappropriate and a violation.

Rochester Public Schools (RPS) and disparities

Commissioner Belisle attended the meeting that was held on Monday, February 25th about what the district is doing to address disparities.

There will be an opportunity to comment on the planning that is underway. Commissioner Belisle suggested that the HRC comment and get the link out to the communities that commission members are connected with.

Commissioner Abbadi asked if they talked about administrative removals. Commissioner Belisle confirmed that she didn't recall that topic come up.

Link: <https://www.rochesterschools.org/about-us/our-classroom-environment>

MDHR Plan:



MDHR Plan
2018-2020 January U

Link to News Coverage on the forum:

- <https://www.kimt.com/content/video/506035122.html>
- <https://www.kimt.com/content/video/507181802.html>
- <https://kttc.com/news/2019/03/14/rochester-public-schools-grapples-with-discipline-disparities/>
- <https://mn.gov/mdhr/news-community/partnerships/suspension-and-expulsion/>

Commission MacLaughlin suggested bringing in the community organizing group to talk to HRC.

Community Engagement Events

Commissioner Abbadi will be organizing community engagement events for the HRC and plans on creating a calendar of events that will be sent semi-annually with

recurring updates. Commissioner Abbadi suggested using doodle poll and/or google calendar.

Commissioner Abbadi will send out requests to attend events one month in advance and set up a google calendar.

- March 27th event: Rally to end domestic violence.
- Legal assistance of OC moved to May 11th
- Juneteenth – Commissioner Abbadi asked for engagement ideas such as a poetry contest.

6. Informational Items

Police Chief Visit

During the February meeting Commissioner Caban suggest that the Police Chief speak to the HRC about his philosophy, expanding diversity within the department, and when issues arise around discrimination and how he would plan to address. Additional suggested topics include de-escalation tactics, use of force, and liaison officers in schools. Meghan Schuler would be the point of contact for de-escalation.

Commissioner Caban confirmed the police chief would attend the May meeting.

HRC Celebrates 20 Years

Commissioner Belisle suggested that the commission ramp up communications and promote that the commission has been around for 20 years. Commissioner Wright recommended that the commission bring before the Board of Commissioners a proclamation.

Q&A for Mediation Services

Wendy Moore sent the update to members in an email.

Updates from Commissioners (Roundtable)

Legal Assistance Banquet: Cancelled due to weather but rescheduled to May 11th at the Mayo Civic Center.

Drug and Alcohol Counseling for the LGBTQ community coming to Rochester

Enhanced Driver's License and Homeless: Commissioner Manal gave an update on the information that staff provided regarding this topic. She noted that one of the barriers is that people have an address to get a driver's license. Fed Ex provides a street address as a workaround.

League of Human Rights Commissions: Commissioner Belisle explained that the commission received an invoice for dues. The leadership team will be gathering more information about the benefits of this membership before making a decision.

Guest: Chris from Congressman Hagedorn's office introduced himself and explained he was in attendance to hear what is going on in the community and with the commission.

7. Adjourn

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

6/0 Motion passes.