

Human Rights Commission

July 29, 2020 – 6:30 pm

Cisco WebEx

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

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1. **Call to Order**
2. **Attendance/Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Approval of June 23, 2020 Minutes**
5. **Old Business**
 - A. Commission Partnerships
 1. Environmental Commission Partnership Update (Day of Service)
 2. Planning Commission Discussion
 - B. MLK Literary Contest Discussion
 - C. Human Rights Day Discussion
6. **New Business**
 - A. Just Deeds Project Update
 - B. CEDAW Overview – Commissioner Persky
 - C. Future Agenda Planning and Remaining 2020 Work Plan Discussion
7. **Adjournment**



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Human Rights Commission

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 23, 2020 – 6:30 pm
Via Cisco Webex Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by Chair Mitchell.

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Chris Mitchell, Destiny Nathan, Mary Giese, Teresa Martin, Carrie Yeager, Jonathan Burris, Naamah Murphy, and Leah Persky (6:42 pm)

Commissioners absent: Leah Persky and Kyle Scott

Council Member present: Maurice Harris

Staff present: Kirsten Santelices, Human Resources Director/HRC Staff Liaison

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Chair Mitchell to add Council Liaison update to agenda, seconded by Vice Chair Yeager. Motion carried 7-0.

MOTION by Vice Chair Yeager to approve agenda with addition. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Commissioner Martin to approve May 26, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted. Seconded by Vice Chair Yeager. Motion Carried 7-0.

MOTION by Vice Chair Yeager to approve June 5, 2020 Special Meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried 7-0.

Chair/Vice-Chair Elections

Staff Santelices provided a very brief overview of the responsibilities of the Chair/Vice-Chair roles and pulled up the bylaws to determine the eligibility for each position.

Commissioner Martin nominated Chris Mitchell for Vice Chair. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Carrie Yeager for Chair. All agreed. Motion carried.

Council Liaison Update

Council Member Harris provided an update to the Commission on some of the recent business from the city Council. These updates included: hiring the Equity Manager, accepting the Rising TIDES Task Force recommendations, approving the CORR plan, and business operations of the City during COVID-19.

Council Member Harris also shared the opinion editorial piece that came from the City Council and thanked the Commission for their continued efforts.



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Old Business

Land Acknowledgment

Commissioner Giese shared that she had found a lot of information and is prepared to put together a presentation with the Commission's input. The Commission discussed the timeline for a presentation to the Council and agreed that an October timeline may be appropriate and the subcommittee would work to have a draft of the presentation for the August or September HRC meeting.

Subcommittee Updates

Sign Committee

The subcommittee shared that they were seeking to find local artists who may be interested in helping the HRC make a yard sign. Some questions arose, including: Are the signs for purchase or give away? Can the commission pay the artist? Can the Commission use the proceeds to donate to a cause? Staff will look into the legality of each of these items. Chair Yeager will reach out to the artists and contacts using criteria that Commissioner Persky wrote to see if anyone is interested. The second option is to ask the communications team to design something. The commission discussed keeping the sign prices between \$10-15 each.

Statement Committee

Vice Chair Mitchell shared a recap of the statement that the subcommittee created to ___ racism and support community members of color. Staff Santelices shared when it went out and where it was posted.

Video Committee

Due to Commissioner Nathan's technical difficulties, Staff Santelices shared the update with the video, moving the timeframe back a few days. Commissioner Nathan will edit over the weekend and it will be sent out as soon as it is complete.

Commission Partnerships Updates

Environmental Commission

Vice Chair Mitchell discussed the opportunity to partner with the EC on an initiative. The Commissioner agreed to create a subcommittee from the HRC and a subcommittee from the EC to work together. The subcommittee is: Commissioners Murphy, Persky, and Vice Chair Mitchell. They will flesh out ideas and present them at the next meeting. Commissioner Martin will provide them with the contacts at the University of Minnesota and recommended connecting with the library.

Planning Commission

Vice Chair Mitchell shared that Planning Commissioner Baker reached out to discuss the issue of lot size restrictions and the intersection with affordability and other human rights issues. Vice Chair Mitchell will update the HRC once they have connected and to discuss this topic further.

Partners in Energy: Energy Action Team

Staff Santelices shared that the City is partnering on a Partners in Energy program and putting together an Energy Action Team. The call for members is out and the City is hoping to have at least one member of the HRC on the team. Santelices will email the information and application to all members.

Day of Service Discussion

Vice Chair Mitchell briefly restated the intent to partner with the Environmental Commission on an initiative for Day of Service. Commissioner Persky shared information about PRISM's efforts to recruit volunteers for their annual Back to School Success backpack event. Volunteers would sort, organize, and fill backpacks during the weeks of August 3 and August 10. Additionally, PRISM may be looking for items to fill the backpacks. It was recommended that the HRC's EquALLity stickers be added to the backpacks if possible. Commissioner Persky will look into it. Additionally, Commissioner Persky will share the volunteer sign-up slots when they become available. The Commission discussed providing a monetary donation to PRISM to help with supplies.

MOTION by Commissioner Martin to donate \$200 to PRISM for the backpack drive.
Seconded by Commissioner Burris. Motion carried 8-0.

Staff will also ensure the information is added to the City newsletter.

Staff Santelices asked the Commission if, given the time, they would prefer to discuss items D (MLK Literary Contest Discussion) and E (Human Rights Day Discussion) or move them to the next agenda.

MOTION by Commissioner Burris to move agenda items D and E to the July meeting.
Seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business

Restrictive Covenant Project Updates

Vice Chair Mitchell and Staff Santelices provided a brief update on the restrictive covenant project that the HRC started in 2019. There will be more of an update at subsequent meetings.

Future Agendas

Commissioners discussed potential agenda items for the future, including CEDAW, Human Rights Day, and Mental Health for Police Officers (a presentation that may have been given in the past). Commissioner Persky will give a CEDAW overview at the July meeting.

Adjourn

MOTION by Commissioner Burris to adjourn at 8:17 pm. Seconded by vice Chair Mitchell.
Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Carrie Yeager, Chair

ATTEST:

Kirsten Santelices, Staff Liaison