

Human Rights Commission of Greenfield. Meeting Place: Remote

Meeting Called To Order: 6:10, Monday, September 13, 2021

Chair read the Chairperson Statement.

Roll Call: Loreen Flockerzie, Daniel Yalowitz, Mo Lyons, Peter Michael Smith, Wendy Goodman, Wid Perry

Regrets: Carolyn McDaniel

Others Present: Dani Letourneau, Mayor's Office Chief of Staff

A motion was made to approve the June 14th Meeting Minutes. Motion Seconded and passed, all in favor.

Announcements: The local and national events memorializing the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 were quite moving and appropriate.

The Commission thanks departing Communications Director Keith Barnicle for all his assistance with – and support of – The Human Rights Commission.

Public Open Forum: No guests in attendance.

Discussion: Nature Gap/Swimming Pool Passes: The passes were not purchased due to various City and State laws regarding gifts and monies spent by municipalities.

Question: Why wasn't the subcommittee informed of this decision by the Chair when it was learned?

The commission has \$300 to spend this fiscal year. What are our options for spending the money? Is the Commission free to spend any monies it fundraises without municipality limitations?

The subcommittee (Pete, Wendy, Wid) was disappointed that we couldn't move forward with this innovative concept and hopes we can revisit it again in the near future.

Accompanying Discussion: Commissioners should inform the Chair if guests are invited to a meeting by a Commissioner when possible. (Preferably at least a 48 hour head's up).

Juneteenth: The article was not published by The Recorder – but it was posted on the City website and distributed to the e-mail list.

Cancellation of July Meeting. The July meeting of The Human Rights Commission of Greenfield was moved later in the month to accommodate a Commissioner and to ensure full attendance for voting of Officers.

The Chair was unable to unattend the later meeting and cancelled the meeting because she knew two members would be absent for the Officer voting.

Some commissioners were concerned that the meeting was cancelled without input from the entire commission regarding rescheduling options.

Lesson learned: Better communication on these issues.

Old Business:

Incident Report. Dani will follow up on the internal status of the Incident Report.

Mission Statement: A few edits needs to be made to the Mission Statement before the Mayor will approve. Keith was to provide those recommended changes to the Chair. Dani will follow up.

Calendar. Do we want to establish a sub-committee to tackle this issue? Is there a long range plan to add structure and specific items to a calendar to be addressed in a timely fashion?

Wid will scan a state Diversity Calendar and send it to the group.

Loreen will bring information on Anti-Bullying (October item). Should we do a My Turn by the HRC of G on the subject of Anti-Bullying?

New Business. What was the technology issue that forced the cancellation of the August HRC of G Meeting?

Dani reports that the City may go to Zoom to help alleviate some of the Webex problems. Zoom is less complex than Webex which was initially intended for corporate use.

The city ran a test meeting and checked all the selections. Regarding our meeting, it wasn't a broken link or a scheduling issue. It appears the meeting was accidentally locked so nobody could get into the meeting.

The City will ensure that the advanced settings are double-checked when setting up meetings. We have to honor the original link (and not start a “new” meeting) because of Open Meeting laws.

We are able to better troubleshoot now and should be able to conquer tech issues in the future.

Cooperative meeting with Commission on Disability Access Meeting. The HRC of G Chair attended a meeting of the Greenfield Commission on Disability Access. The Disability Commission is interested in combining forces on like issues – Nature Gap, homelessness, etc. – forming a partnership to address such issues.

What are the next steps to forward this initiative? Dani will arrange a introduction between the two chairs.

Scheduling of October Meeting: Our regularly scheduled October meeting falls on a Holiday (11th). The Commission agreed to meet on Monday, October 18th which is Webex available.

Election of Officers. Open Positions: Chair and Vice Chair.

Chair Nominations: Daniel (by Wendy, seconded by Pete), Loreen (by Mo). Mo lauded Loreen’s human rights awareness, her work with FRTA with bus schedules and bus passes, housing awareness (including on line applications), and her work with law enforcement.

Loreen would accept the Chair if elected. She did address animosity in meetings and e-mails which felt unwarranted and cruel. How we treat each other should be the same as the way we treat those in the community. She felt some of the friction was the learning curve of newer commissioners eager to do the work of the Commission.

Daniel thanked Loreen for all her efforts as Chair. Daniel is committed about the Commission making a difference by standing up for the voiceless and finding new approaches – bold stand up relationships are important. The Commission needs to be a visible voice on behalf of all heard and unheard. We need to activate ourselves and move forward.

Vote: Daniel: Daniel, Pete, Wendy, Wid

Loreen: Loreen, Mo

Daniel is the new Chair.

Nominations for Vice-Chair

Wid nominated Loreen (Pete Seconded). Daniel nominated Pete.

Pete's comments: One year on the commission, serving out of a deep need for an active role in improving community. Last summer was a critical moment in the nation – we need to start working on a new look Greenfield, make measurable improvements and Pete vowed to re-dedicate himself to those efforts as Vice-Chair.

Vote:

Loreen: Loreen, Mo, Wid

Pete: Pete, Daniel Wendy.

Wid made a **motion** to reconsider the vote which was seconded by Wendy.

ReVote:

Loreen: Loreen, Mo.

Pete: Pete, Daniel, Wendy

Abstaining: Wid

Pete is new Vice-Chair.

The Commission thanked Loreen for all her work as Chair and Commissioner. It also thanked Daniel and Pete for their willingness to provide new leadership to the Commission and the new members we anticipate joining us.

Dani committed to finding answers before prior to forming the agenda for the next meeting:

- Find out Incident Form status – with Mayor
- Find out where the Mission Statement is - with Mayor
- Resources for finance rules on using their annual budget.
- Distribute any op-ed or letter to the editor for the anti-bullying month (October)

- Connect two chairs of Commission of Disability Access and HRC

Motion made at 7:24 to adjourn meeting. Motion Seconded and approved.
Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: **Monday, October 18, 2021** at 6:00 p.m. Submit agenda items to Daniel no later than noon, Friday, October 15, 2021.