

Duluth Human Rights Commission (HRC)

Regular Meeting - minutes

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 @ 5:30pm

City Hall Room 155

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 5:33pm
 - b. Commissioners present: Commissioners Jaramillo-Kraemer, Lue, Keppers, Huber, and Wittenberg
 - c. Commissioners absent: Commissioner Lyons
 - d. Guests: Human Rights Officer (HRO) Carl Crawford, Layla Wise, Gabe Walsh, members of the Crime and Justice Institute, Kathleen Spencer
2. Consent of Minutes - March 8, 2023
 - a. Regarding agenda item 9C: questions regarding funding that were not clarified
 - b. Motioned to approve by Commissioner Huber; seconded by Commissioner Keppers, unanimously approved
3. Public Comments and Written Comments
 - a. Written public comments submitted prior to meeting
 - i. None
 - b. Live public comments
 - i. Announcement from Carl Crawford:
 1. Tomorrow at 10am, City Hall will be recognizing Ethel Ray Nance
 - a. Ethel Ray Nance was an African American Civil Rights and Women's Rights activist
 - b. She was also a large proponent of bringing the NAACP to the Duluth area
 - c. Next year, there will be potentially more of a day-long recognition
 - ii. Concern from a community member:
 1. The format was changed on the WebEx format for watching City Council meetings, making it not possible to submit comments live online
 - a. This information will be passed along to the IT department
4. CJI/Racial Bias Update and Discussion
 - a. Two members from the Crime and Justice Institute provided information regarding the Racial Bias Audit
 - i. All information can be found on the DPD website as well, in the transparency section
 - ii. Two BIPOC forums coming up at AICHO, one will be with AICHO participants specifically
 - iii. Information gathering occurring through May, with a report to be produced for DPD and the Racial Bias Audit group
 - iv. Will also release this report publicly

- v. Will be doing implementation planning towards the end of their contract with DPD and community members at the same table
 - vi. Asking for the HRC to be willing to be involved with hosting listening sessions about the findings from the Audit, and to engage in the implementation planning with the community
 - b. Commissioners asked questions about the Audit and upcoming plans, eliciting these responses:
 - i. The Racial Bias Audit is about all of DPD, including patrol officers and investigators
 - ii. The community will be taking a large role in the implementation process
 - iii. The public survey will represent the demographics of respondents:
 - 1. Anyone over the age of 16
 - a. A lot more respondents currently are in the 30-40s
 - 2. Current respondents are 20% BIPOC
 - 3. Current respondents are a little over half female, 30% male, and the remaining percentages are those who identify as other genders
 - iv. The community survey does make it explicit that this survey is about DPD only, and is not about any other law enforcement in the area
 - v. The Racial Bias Audit will also include a Body-Worn Camera Review
 - vi. 911 Dispatch will not be a part of the audit because they work for the county
5. Executive Team Report
 - a. Combined update with the Communications Committee:
 - i. The commission has been sending posts to Kelly (City of Duluth Communications), but nothing we have sent has been posted on the City of Duluth Facebook page since November 2022
 - 1. Looking for clarification if they are being posted somewhere other than Facebook
 - 2. Officer Crawford stated that HRC posts have not been posted because of capacity. Kelly is willing to have a sit-down conversation to discuss how to address this barrier
 - 3. Commissioner Lue and the Executive Team will ask to have another meeting with Kelly, and include Officer Crawford, regarding how to move forward
 - b. Asked if there is an update regarding when we are presenting at the City Council meeting
 - i. Not yet
 - ii. Commission asked for the preference of either June or September
6. Findings Committee Report
 - a. Did not meet this month
 - b. Lost one member, so one spot is vacant (three spots on the Commission are vacant overall)
 - c. Commissioner Keppers is interested in joining the Findings Committee

7. Research Committee Report
 - a. Did not meet (only one member on this committee currently)
8. Communications Committee Report
 - a. Combined with the Executive Team Report
9. Events Committee Report
 - a. Did not meet this month
 - b. Commissioner Wittenberg proposed that the committee meets before the next commission meeting
 - i. Commissioner Jaramillo-Kraemer agreed, Commissioners Jaramillo-Kraemer and Wittenberg will reach out to check with Commissioner Lyons
10. Human Rights Officer Report
 - a. Continuing to work with the University of Wisconsin Superior, looking specifically at DEI
 - b. Continuing working with strategies to end homelessness
 - i. This is a struggle as benefits are being taken away or shrinking
 - ii. The warming center will be closing next week, due to lack of employees with contracts running out
 - iii. Safe Bay has an undetermined space. This is a partnership with CHUM and St. Louis County
 - iv. Looking at the Damiano Center to have lockers for people to store their things, and looking to find a place where they can wash their clothes
 - c. Continuing to work with the Snow Removal Task Force
 - i. Working hard to come up with solutions, preparing to better take care of our sidewalks, streets, and entryways
 - d. Was a UMD Culture Inclusion Panelist put together by League of Women Voters
 - e. Minnesota Council on African Heritage had their day at the Capitol
 - f. Getting a lot of complaints from people experiencing homelessness when they are leaving the warming center because the DTA is not allowing them to bring their luggage on the bus
11. Announcements and Upcoming Events
 - a. Commissioner Wittenberg: April is National Fair Housing Month
 - b. Commissioner Keppers: Diona Johnson passed away a few days ago
 - i. She was a huge part of the local community, and advocacy community
 - ii. Her Celebration of Life is in June 2023
 - c. Commissioner Wittenberg: Superintendent Magas plans on being at the HRC meeting in May
12. Additional Public Comments and Commissioner Comments
 - a. None
13. Request for Agenda Items for Next Meeting
 - a. Can be emailed to Laura for the next meeting
14. Adjourn
 - a. Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm
 - b. Next meeting is May 10, 2023

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Tyra Jaramillo-Kraemer, Secretary