



Human Relations Commission Agenda

7:00 p.m. Special Meeting

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Virtual Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85774700590>

1. **Roll Call**

2. **Adoption of the Agenda**

3. **Approval of the Minutes**

- a. May 7, 2020

4. **Visitors to be Heard**

5. **Old Business**

- a. Oath of Confidentiality
- b. Schedule of Meetings
- c. Land acknowledgment statement
- d. Home Rule Update

6. **New Business**

- a. Anti-Racism Training Opportunity

7. **Adjourn**

Access the Human Relations Commission Agenda on the web – www.vermillion.us

Addressing the Commission: Persons addressing the Commission shall be recognized. Please raise your hand to be recognized and state your name and address.

a. Items Not on the Agenda Members of the public may speak under Visitors to Be Heard on any topic NOT on the agenda. Remarks are limited to 5 minutes and no decision will be made at this time.

b. Agenda Items: Public testimony will be taken at the beginning of each agenda item, after the subject has been announced by the Mayor and explained by staff. Any citizen who wishes may speak one time for 5 minutes on each agenda item. Public testimony will then be closed and the topic will be given to the governing body for possible action. At this point, only commission members and staff may discuss the current agenda item unless a commission member moves to allow another person to speak and there is unanimous consent from the commission. Questions from commission members, however, may be directed to the public through the presiding officer at any time.

Meeting Assistance: The City of Vermillion fully subscribes to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you desire to attend this public meeting and are in need of special accommodations, please notify the City Manager's Office at 677-7050 at least 3 working days prior to the meeting so appropriate auxiliary aids and services can be made available.

As a courtesy to others, we ask that cellular phones and pagers be turned off during the meeting.



The City of Vermillion is a proud official partner of the 2020 Census

Unapproved Minutes
Human Relations Commission
Thursday, May 7, 2020 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order via Zoom on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 7:07 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Shannon Cole, Wendy Hess, Jordan Bonstrom, Brenda Fergen, Codylee Riedmann, Jerry Yutrzenka.

Absent: Calvin Petersen.

Other Present: Travis Letellier, Lamont Sellers, Mark Daniels

Staff present: John Prescott, City Manager; James Purdy, Assistant City Manager

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Hess motioned to approve the agenda seconded by Yutrzenka. Roll call: Cole-Y, Hess-Y, Bonstrom-Y, Fergen-Y, Riedmann-Y, Yutrzenka-Y. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes

3a. Hess moved to approve the March 5, 2020 minutes, seconded by Fergen. Roll call: Hess-Y, Bonstrom-Y, Fergen-Y, Riedmann-Y, Yutrzenka-Y, Cole-Y. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Visitors to be Heard

None. The new members introduced themselves, what they did in Vermillion and their interest in serving on the Human Relations Commission. The members of the Human Relations Commission who have their term ending also introduced themselves.

5. Old Business

- a. Land Acknowledgment Statement.
- b. Home Rule Update.
- c. Public Relations Ideas.

5a. Daniels provided a brief history on the origin of why the Commission was looking at this issue. Daniels stated that he hadn't yet met with tribal elders to discuss the draft land acknowledgement statement and elicit feedback. This item will remain on future agendas, as developing the statement will be a continuous and sensitive process.

5b. Prescott and Letellier provided background on the Home Rule Charter issue and why the Commission might have an interest in the matter. The goal of the Charter Committee is to develop a Home Rule Charter that could potentially be voted on by the public at the November 2020 general election.

5c. Hess provided information on what led to the development of the proposed mission statement. Hess noted that much of the content related back to the ordinance that created the Commission.

6. New Business

- a. Introduction of New Members.
- b. Discussion of Officer Elections.

6a. This item was moved up and incorporated under Visitors to be Heard.

6b. Letellier explained that there are two Officer positions that can be voted on tonight or at the next meeting.

Motion by Yutrzenka to nominate Cole as Chair, Fergen seconded the motion. Roll call: Bonstrom-Y, Cole-Y, Fergen-Y, Hess-Y, Reidmann-Y, Yutrzenka-Y.

Motion by Cole to nominate Hess as Vice Chair, Yutrzenka seconded the motion. Roll call: Bonstrom-Y, Cole-Y, Fergen-Y, Hess-Y, Reidmann-Y, Yutrzenka-Y.

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 7:00pm.

7. Adjourn

Moved by Yutrzenka to adjourn, seconded by Fergen. Roll call: Bonstrom-Y, Cole-Y, Fergen-Y, Hess-Y, Reidmann-Y, Yutrzenka-Y. Motion carried unanimously at 8:17 p.m.

Shannon Cole, Chair

Vermillion Human Relations Commission

James Purdy

From: Shannon Cole <scole219@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 3:32 PM
To: James Purdy
Subject: Land acknowledgement examples

Hi James,

Here are the two examples for HRC to consider on Thursday.

Thank you,
Shannon

South Dakota Humanities Council statement:

"We would like to acknowledge, first and foremost, that we stand on ground which is Lakota homeland. We honor and appreciate the indigenous people who have the longest relationship to this place."

University of Illinois System statement:

"These lands were the traditional birthright of indigenous peoples who were forcibly removed and who have faced two centuries of struggle for survival and identity in the wake of dispossession. We hereby acknowledge the ground on which we stand so that all who come here know that we recognize our responsibilities to the peoples of that land and that we strive to address that history so that it guides our work in the present and the future."

Full disclosure, the U of I statement has also been criticized for merely acknowledging such universities sit on Native American land, but not acknowledging they "began their ascendance to prominence with money raised from the rental or sale of Native American lands."