



Human Relations Commission Agenda

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Jack Powell Conference Room – City Hall

25 Center Street

Vermillion, South Dakota 57069

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Adoption of the Agenda**
3. **Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. September 16, 2021 Regular Meeting; September 28, 2021 Special Meeting
4. **Visitors to be Heard**
5. **Old Business**
 - a. Land Acknowledgement Statement
6. **New Business**
 - a. Discussion of Brookings HRC Meeting Attended
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.

Unapproved Minutes
Human Relations Commission
Thursday, September 16, 2021 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order on Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 7:11 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Shannon Cole, Wendy Hess, Jerry Yutrzenka, Brenda Fergen

Absent: Alexis Oskolkoff, Jordan Bonstrom, Bentou Kamara

Staff Present: John Prescott, City Manager; Stone Conley, Assistant to the City Manager

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Approval of the Minutes

3a. Hess moved to approve the July 8, 2021 minutes, seconded by Cole. Roll call: Cole-Y, Hess-Y, Yutrzenka-Y, Fergen-Y. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Visitors to be Heard

4a. None

5. Old Business

- a. Land Acknowledgement Statement
- b. Discussion of definition of Sex
- c. Discussion of HRC and other Municipal HRCs
- d. Discussion of VHRC Line Item

5a. Cole sent all members of the HRC a draft version of the group's Land Acknowledgement Statement. Cole stated that Bonstrom has reached out to USD's Native Studies Department as they are currently drafting their own. Cole would like to share the HRC's draft with USD and will continue to reach out to the Native Studies department. Cole also stated she would like the statement to remain in present not past tense to be respectful. Fergen believes it is respectful while also stating the brevity of it benefits it. Yutrzenka believes that being brief and general serves to include everyone. He would also like the word "acknowledged" to be in the statement. Everyone agrees on this addition. Cole will touch base with Bonstrom, Oskolkoff, and the USD Native Studies department to progress with the statement.

5b. Hess stated the City Attorney believes we cannot add new classes as a City. Brookings HRC was contacted and stated they are able to add classes by utilizing a statute that created the HRC itself. Cole states because it is not expressly defined that the commission cannot add classes, the HRC may be able to. Military Veterans will also be looked at to be added as a protected class.

5c. Hess and Cole will be meeting via Zoom with the Brookings HRC on Tuesday. The meeting will be with regards to the implementation of new classes, and overall management of Vermillion's Human Relations Commission. The Brookings HRC will look to provide Hess and Cole with information about the commission.

5d. The HRC was approved a budgeted line-item in the 2022 budget for a total of \$300. Yutrzenka asked if grants would be able to cover some of the programming the HRC may discuss. Prescott says it is possible but would require a bit more research of the process. Cole believes the Humanities Council of South Dakota may be able to help with the process.

6. New Business

6a. On October 2, 2021 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 pm there will be a dedication ceremony for the Vermillion Community Mural located behind the Coyote Twin Theater. Light refreshments will be provided and speakers will be present to discuss their work on the mural.

7. Adjourn

Moved by Yutrzenka to adjourn, seconded by Fergen. Roll call: Cole-Y, Hess-Y, Yutrzenka-Y, Fergen-Y. Motion carried unanimously at 8:11 p.m.

Shannon Cole, Chair

Vermillion Human Relations Commission

Unapproved Minutes
Human Relations Commission
Tuesday, September 28, 2021 Special Meeting

The special meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order on Thursday, September 28, 2021 at 11:58 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: Shannon Cole, Wendy Hess, Jerry Yutrzenka, Alexis Oskolkoff
(Oskolkoff left at 12:59 P.M.)

Absent: Jordan Bonstrom, Bentou Kamara, Brenda Fergen

Staff Present: Stone Conley, Assistant to the City Manager

The Vermillion HRC attended a Brookings HRC meeting virtually as special guests to learn about their process and engage with questions. No official action was taken by the Vermillion Human Relations Commission.

Shannon Cole, Chair

Vermillion Human Relations Commission