

Unapproved Minutes  
Human Relations Commission  
Thursday, January 7, 2021 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order via Zoom on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 7:31 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Shannon Cole, Wendy Hess, Jordan Bonstrom, Jerry Yutrzenka, Calvin Petersen

Absent: Codylee Riedmann, Brenda Fergen

Staff present: John Prescott, City Manager; James Purdy, Assistant City Manager; Chad Passick, VPD Captain

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Petersen asked to add discussion about Home Rule. Cole noted that would be discussed as part of new business. Cole wished to add Research of Brookings Ordinances and Land Acknowledgment to the agenda under old business. Motion to approve the agenda with two additions made by Hess, seconded by Petersen. Roll call: Cole-Y, Hess-Y, Bonstrom-Y, Petersen-Y, Yutrzenka-Y. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes

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

4. Visitors to be Heard

4a. Caroline Bates, USD liaison, was present.

5. Old Business

- a. Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)
- b. Research of Brookings Ordinances (added)
- c. Land Acknowledgment Update (added)

5a. Bonstrom stated that the cost of the will be \$18 per person, and that Dr. Chandler with USD is ready and willing to work with commissioners. Each commissioner will need to be responsible to make their own arrangements to see Dr. Chandler and attend their appointments. City administration will be contacting Dr. Chandler to arrange payment for the service.

5b. Hess shared some research she conducted on the Brookings Ordinance that pertains to their Human Relations Commission. Hess noted that while the Brookings Ordinance notes additional protected classes beyond state and federal discrimination laws, one class that is absent which Vermillion has discussed adding is military or veteran status. There were three sections of the ordinance where

this was identified: §32.41 Definitions, §32.49 Specific Discriminatory or Unfair Practices, and §32.50 Substantive and Procedural Authority and Duties. Complaints based on these additional protected categories would not be investigated or referred to the State Human Rights Commission. Cole proposed creating a subcommittee to work on the language within an amendment to the Vermillion HRC ordinance, as well as other places in the City code where changes could occur. The subcommittee will consist of Yutrzenka and Hess, with Purdy in an advisory role.

5c. Cole stated there is no updated at this time. She wants to involve the Native American community beyond, and is still working out the best way for that to happen.

## 6. New Business

### a. Discussion of Potential Diversity and Inclusion Updates and MEI (Municipal Equality Index) Scoring

5a. Cole provided the Commission with an overview of the Municipal Equality Index. Prescott provided further details regarding how that process works from the perspective of the City. The Commission further discussed the categories and some of the scoring. Cole volunteered to be part of a subcommittee to examine the scoring areas and look for ways to improve. Bonstrom also volunteered to serve on this subcommittee, with Purdy again serving in an advisor role. The Commission also discussed the criteria for being evaluated by the Human Rights Campaign, and noted that public university communities are automatically included. Hess suggested adding some of the positive things that have been done in regards to the MEI score be added to the VHRC webpage. Staff will work on updating the webpage as progress is made.

## 7. Adjourn

Moved by Petersen to adjourn, seconded by Bonstrom. Roll call: Bonstrom-Y, Cole-Y, Hess-Y, Petersen-Y, Yutrzenka-Y. Motion carried unanimously at 8:29 p.m.

Shannon Cole, Chair

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Vermillion Human Relations Commission