

Unapproved Minutes
Human Relations Commission
Thursday, March 4, 2021 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order via Zoom on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 7:02 p.m.

1. Roll Call

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

Absent:

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

2. Adoption of the Agenda

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

3. Approval of the Minutes

3a. Yutrzenka moved to approve the January 7, 2021 minutes, seconded by Bonstrom. Roll call: Cole-Y, Hess-Y, Bonstrom-Y, Petersen-Y, Yutrzenka-Y, Riedmann-Y, Fergen-Y. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Visitors to be Heard

4a. None

5. Old Business

- a. Land Acknowledgment Statement
- b. Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)
- c. Discussion of Potential Diversity and Inclusion Updates and MEI Scoring

5a. Cole states that USD has a team working on a land acknowledgment statement, and that she looks forward to seeing what that group comes up with. Cole also advised the Commission that there are some Native American elements worked into the design of the downtown streetscape project.

5b. Prescott noted that he was informed that Dr. Chandler has left the university, and that he has exchanged emails with the individual filling in for her, but has not received any responses as of late. Cole noted that the individual has taken on a significant amount of work with Dr. Chandler's departure, and that it seems unlikely that the IDI project involving the Commission will take place this semester.

5c. The sub-committee on Diversity and Inclusion updates shared comments from the City Attorney regarding updating the HRC

Ordinance. To summarize, the City Attorney does not believe a change to the body of the ordinance is prudent at this time. Discussion followed. One suggestion was that the definition section of the ordinance could be updated, in order to enumerate more clearly what is becoming practice following some recent legal rulings. There was also discussion of including some of that information on future educational material. In regards to the MEI scoring that sub-committee presented several ideas to the Commission on items that could be pursued. City staff is researching some of the suggestions in case they are already offered to employees.

6. New Business

a. Commission Transition

5a. Three of the terms on the Commission will expire on May 1st, with the next meeting scheduled for May 6th. The City will begin accepting expression of interest forms soon after the next City Council meeting, and the seats will be filled at the April 19th City Council meeting.

7. Adjourn

Moved by Petersen to adjourn, seconded by Fergen. Roll call: Cole-Y, Hess-Y, Bonstrom-Y, Petersen-Y, Yutrzenka-Y, Riedmann-Y, Fergen-Y. Motion carried unanimously at 8:03 p.m.

Shannon Cole, Chair

Vermillion Human Relations Commission