

Unapproved Minutes  
Human Relations Commission  
Thursday, March 5, 2020 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission was called to order in the Large Conference Room at City Hall on March 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Travis Letellier, Lamont Sellers (7:07), Jolly Omar, Calvin Petersen, Shannon Cole (7:05), Mark Daniels, and Wendy Hess (via phone).

Absent: None.

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

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Daniels motioned to approve the agenda seconded by Petersen. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes

3a. Daniels moved to approve the January 9, 2020 minutes, seconded by Omar. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Visitors to be Heard

None.

5. Old Business

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

5a. Daniels stated that he will meet with tribal elders to discuss the draft land acknowledgement statement and elicit feedback. Sellers indicated that there are no updates regarding USD's land acknowledgement statement. This item will remain on future agendas, as developing the statement will be a continuous and sensitive process.

5b. John Prescott, City Manager, reported that the official Home Rule Charter Committee has been appointed by the City Council. 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. It was suggested that the VHRC and charter committee have future discussions about common goals and interests for the charter.

6. New Business

- a. Public Statements and the VHRC.

6a. Letellier asked the open ended question, "How do we market ourselves/create awareness about the VHRC?" Petersen had several ideas including:

- 1) Providing a poster/brochure to churches.
- 2) Providing posters/brochures to businesses, service clubs, laundry mats, and organizations on campus.
- 3) A write up in the local newspaper.

Sellers stated that it is important that messaging is consistent, and proposed the VHRC come up with a mission statement and consistent talking points to be utilized in a variety of situations and settings.

Omar also proposed a type of community award that celebrates business/community leaders that have shown a commitment to diversity and inclusion in Vermillion. The Commission will follow up on that idea with the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company.

Hess and Petersen volunteered to work on a mission statement, and some talking points.

It was noted that this is the last meeting of this group of Commissioners. The City will be advertising the openings within the next month or two. All commissioners are welcome to reapply.

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

7. Adjourn

Moved by Daniels to adjourn, seconded by Petersen. Motion carried unanimously at 8:05 p.m.

Travis Letellier, Chair

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Vermillion Human Relations Commission