



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Meeting Minutes

### Human Rights Commission

---

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

5:15 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

---

#### Call to Order, Roll Call

*The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fabio Burgos at 5:15 p.m.*

**Present:** 6 - Ashley Lacenski, Fabio Burgos, James Parker, Shaundel Spivey, Will Van Roosenbeek, Elizabeth Digby-Britten

**Absent:** 3 - Lu Lee Yang, Vacant 1, Rose Reinert

*Others present: Peter Nelson, Mary Nelson, Julia McDermid, Emily Johnson, Andrea Schnick.*

#### Approval of Minutes

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 15, 2017 meeting minutes with the following amendments:*

*Change Ashley Lacenski to Elizabeth Digby-Britten in item 4, Mayor's Expo - HRC exhibitor table.*

*Add the following verbiage to the next meeting date/agenda items summary: "The HRC endorsed the statement made by Mayor Tim Kabat that La Crosse would not comply with any order that mandates that local police enforce federal immigration law. Mayor Kabat stated that "We are not going to become a police state. We...and our police department (are) going to continue to treat every person with respect, regardless of their immigration status." Since this was not on the agenda, HRC agreed to postpone a vote on the motion until the March 22 meeting.*

*The motion carried by unanimous consent.*

#### Agenda Items:

1. Mayor's Conference

*Tim Acklin will drop off materials for the HRC display table -- housing complaint forms, brochures, proclamation, user friendly version of ordinance, user friendly version of process for filing complaint, tri-fold board, nametags. Uptowne Cafe is seeking volunteers to serve soup; Shaundel will get more info on their needs.*

2. La Crosse Housing Commission presentation summary

3. Police Training follow-up

*Elizabeth Digby-Britten shared feedback on a 2 hour police training she completed.*

*She felt she got verbal pushback on high school resource officers. She feels more training is needed. She stated that follow up is needed with the school resource officers and new officers may be needed. Comments were made out of the training and could get a testimonial from the person who heard it. Shuandel would like to see an update from the officers on updates of training. Fabio Burgos and Ashley Lacenski inquired if there is a judicial process to address the issues. The HRC should decide how to shine the light on this issue. Fabio will reach out to the police department to figure out when it can be on the agenda. A special meeting may be added in April to address this topic. Planning will reach out after getting info from Fabio.*

4. Housing Complaints recommendations

*Fabio Burgos had spoken with Stephen Matty. It won't be approved until April meeting. The HRC can control independent investigator. Ashley Lacenski commented the housing commission discussed hiring an attorney with civil rights experience. Fabio wants to be able to control process better without mandatory investigation. Jane Alberts from the Housing Authority can attend the May meeting. Julie has a meeting tomorrow and will have more feedback for discussion on housing complaints after that. Elizabeth Digby-Britten will reach out to Ruth Ann Schultz from the YWCA for Friday's 10am meeting. Julie can distribute a survey at the Franciscan Hospitality Center.*

5. Support of Mayor's Statement on La Crosse as a Sanctuary City.

*A motion was made by Spivey, seconded by Van Roosenbeek, to pass a resolution that the Human Rights Commission endorses the Mayor's Statement regarding La Crosse as a Sanctuary City. The motion carried 6-0 by voice vote.*

### **Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items**

*The next meeting is Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 5:15 p.m. Agenda items include: Wendy Oestreich, City of La Crosse Director of Human Resources, regarding diversity efforts*

*Council seat on Commission*

*Update on Friday's meeting*

*Shaundel will follow up on Sundown Towns*

*There is another regular meeting set for May 17, 2017 at 5:15 p.m. Agenda items include:*

*Jane Alberts, Housing Authority*

*Other comments: Elizabeth mentioned Central Diversity Day needs speakers on April 12th from 9a-1p. Will stated the Pride Center is speaking. Ashley will check with her office.*

### **Adjournment**

*A motion was made by Spivey, seconded by Digby-Britten to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.*

*Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.*

*NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY*

*Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to [ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org), with as much advance notice as possible.*