



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

5:15 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:24 P.M.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Vacant 1, Julie McDermid, A Xiong, Justice Weaver, Jonathan Maye-Cates, Nese Nasif

Excused: 2 - Brandon Perrine, Rhonda Staats

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Nasif, seconded by McDermid, to APPROVE the October 24, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

Agenda Items:

[18-1570](#)

Update on the Human Rights Commission Ordinance

Paul noted "gatekeeper" provision and probable cause areas may be modified to a higher level of scrutiny. Jason asked about resources needed to affect outcomes. Discussion occurred regarding resources needed for implementation of ordinance. Julie mentioned the sensitivity of hearing structure. Paul noted attorney's office could handle orders/citations for the HRC. Orders should be based on things easily verifiable following major complaints. Nese asked who decides when an independent investigator/hearing examiner would occur. Paul noted the ordinance requires this and that the HRC is not the juror. Paul noted hearings can take days and are complex. Paul noted the HRC can ask for appropriation of funds by resolution. A. Xiong noted changing from jury to advocacy may appear inconsistent. Paul also noted the mediation options which may be less expensive than hearings and/or investigations.

[18-1571](#)

Consideration and possible action on establishing a framework for the HRC's strategic plan including public participation strategy, facilitation and timeline.

Attachments: [Workshop Report.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Nasif, seconded by Weaver, to REFER for 30 days. The motion was carried with McDermid voting No.

[18-1572](#)

Discussion on Open Forum

Discussion ensued on getting out to the public to listen to concerns/issues. Nasif asked if it is just promotional or data gathering, noting if it is data gathering we need to have a plan. Julia noted the process could build trust as the public could be asked what the HRC should be doing. Nasif noted article on "expert bodies seeking public opinion". Noting unintended bad will can occur. Julia urged all to do homework - review the strategic plan. Paul suggested revising/updating the petition as a concrete item we can do.

[18-1573](#)

Announcements

For the next two meeting dates a doodle poll will be sent out for preferred days of the month. Future meetings will be determined by poll. The next meeting date is December 12, 2018.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Maye-Cates, seconded by Weaver, to ADJORN. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:58 P.M.

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, with as much advance notice as possible.