



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Monday, March 2, 2020

5:15 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

Call to Order

Chauncy Turner called the meeting to order at 5:24 pm.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Julie McDermid, A Xiong, Justice Weaver, Brandon Perrine, Rhonda Staats, Chauncy M. Turner
Excused: 1 - Nese Nasif
Absent: 1 - Jonathan Maye-Cates

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Chauncy and seconded by Julie to approve the meeting minutes from the February 2020 meeting. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda Items:

1. Action item updates.

(a) Chauncy reported he had a successful meeting with Julie Henline though she was not able to attend this meeting. They discussed how to breakdown some of the HRC's larger goals to make them achievable and discussed specific items such as plans to hold a Gala fundraising event. Julie suggested the Commission could partner with the Downtown Main Street Incorporated (DMI) organization to put on a Music Fest in June. The fest is an annual event that happens in many cities around the US and even internationally and that is intended highlight and showcase diversity within communities. Rhonda asked if we could have someone from DMI attend a future meeting to answer questions about how we can partner. Chauncy stated he would talk to Julie about making this happen.

(b) A. updated the group about the presentation to UWL students. It went great – about 45 students attended and were very engaged. A. also had some follow-up communication with the students and Nese about specific examples to make the website easier to navigate. The plan is for the students to work on a variety of projects to help improve/recreate the website and increase awareness in the community about the Commission through marketing and a social media presence. The students will do a presentation of their work on May 5th. Commissioners should plan to attend the presentation if possible.

(c) Julie requested a brief pause in the meeting to allow for introductions of

two visitors. Commissioners introduced themselves. One visitor identified as a student interested in learning more about city meetings/planning and a second visitor identified as a friend.

(d) There was some informal discussion about the Waking Up White book as most Commissioners have now completed reading the book. Some members loved it and others strongly disliked it. The group agreed to have a separate meeting devoted to discussion of the book as previously planned and to ask Rebecca Schwarz from the YWCA to come to facilitate the discussion. Julie stated she would email Rebecca and ask for available days and times and then Doodle the rest of the Commissioners to determine a date for this. A. stated she would reach out to Thomas Harris to have him come to a meeting or otherwise connect to the Commission about how the HRC can support or participate in the WUW Symposium beyond the reading group challenge. A. said she would also work with Jane at the YWCA in helping to disseminate the books to the groups challenged. Chauncy agreed to complete a draft of the challenge letter to include all of the items previously listed in the February meeting minutes as well as an offering that the HRC would help provide tickets to the Symposium for any challenge reading group members interested in attending. The HRC would ask the trained facilitators the challenge groups use to send a list of members who would like tickets. The groups/organizations that the HRC would like to challenge are as follows:

- i. Marine Credit Union
- ii. State Bank
- iii. Park Bank
- iv. Thrivent Financial Services
- v. The Chamber of Commerce
- vi. The City of La Crosse Housing Authority Board of Directors and Staff

2. Discussion on strategic plan meeting.

Chauncy stated that Julie Henline could not make it to this meeting. Brandon reminded the group of the voted upon primary strategies that came out of the group's meetings to determine mission and vision.

3. Discussion on the incentives for the grant program.

Rhonda stated that before we can discuss the grant program in any further detail the group needs answers to questions regarding the use of funding. The group came up with the following list of questions: 1) What is the balance of funding available to HRC now? If this balance is shared with another City department (as mentioned by Jason Gilman during previous meetings), how much is actually available for HRC use? 2) What are the restrictions regarding the use of funding? 3) Can the HRC use the money to fund the grand program directly? Can it be used to pay for costs needed to plan and carry out fund-raising activities so the HRC can create a separate fund or increase the current balance to carry out the grand program? 4) If City funding can be used for the grant program, are there existing City guidelines on how this must be carried out? This could include guidelines on budgeting, scoring, how to release a Request for Proposals, etc. Julie stated she would provide these questions to Jason Gilman via email right away and request that answers be provided in writing.

4. Consideration and possible action on a date to have Gensler's Julie Henline to come to a meeting.

Chauncy will work to find an upcoming meeting that Julie may be able to attend to help the HRC to add action steps and a timeline to the current strategic plan.

Adjournment

A motion by Rhonda, seconded by Julie to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

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.