



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Meeting Minutes

### Human Rights Commission

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Wednesday, September 29, 2021

5:15 PM

Zoom only

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To keep the public safe, this meeting is being held virtually only. E-mail [duffere@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:duffere@cityoflacrosse.org) if you have trouble logging in.

Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81130054539>

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### Call to Order

Turner called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm

### Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - Tracy Littlejohn, Julie McDermid, A Xiong, Chauncy M Turner, Mac Kiel, Tashyra Bernard  
**Absent:** 2 - Chelsey Myhre-Foster, Kemmesha Thomas

### Approval of Minutes

McDermid motioned to approve the minutes, Xiong seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

1. [21-1372](#) Approval of the Minutes from September 15, 2021.

McDermid motioned to approve the minutes, Xiong seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

**Agenda Items:**

2. [21-1317](#) Fair Housing Complaint - Malcolm Nelson v. Wood - Determination whether the complaint alleges sufficient facts that if true, relief could be granted and therefore whether complaint is actionable.

*(Note: The Committee and/or Council may convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 19.85(1)(a) to deliberate its decision. Following any closed session, the Committees and/or Council may reconvene in open session.)*

**Attachments:** [HRC Complaint - Nelson vs. Wood\\_REDACTED.pdf](#)

Plaintiff was absent and defendant attended with attorney. Attorney Pierce stated that defendant should be excepted from the complaint according to Sec. 22-25, since the renter/lessee shared common living areas with the owner/lessor. The plaintiff had completed a year lease and continued to rent month-to-month before moving out and filing a complaint around August 15. The conditions of the standard lease stated that renters assist with regular cleaning, and owner gave notice and warnings about meeting the conditions. Defendant had no recollection of disparaging remarks. This is the defendants only property, all the leases are the same, and her live-in partner does not have a lease and contributes to upkeep.

Xiong motioned to convene in closed session, Kiel seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

The Commission reconvened in open Session.

Kiel motioned to dismiss the case due to defendant's exemption from fair housing complaints referenced in Sec 22-25, Xiong seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote. Plaintiff may have a fair housing case at the State level, though.

3. [21-1316](#) Fair Housing Complaint - Pamela Raisbeck v. WEC Rentals - Determination whether the complaint alleges sufficient facts that if true, relief could be granted and therefore whether complaint is actionable.

*(Note: The Committee and/or Council may convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 19.85(1)(a) to deliberate its decision. Following any closed session, the Committees and/or Council may reconvene in open session.)*

**Attachments:** [HRC Complaint - Pamela Raisbeck vs. WEC Rentals REDACTED.pdf](#)

Kiel made a motion to dismiss this case due to lack of attendance by plaintiff and defendant. The motion carried by a voice vote.

**Next Meeting & Agenda Items**

*The next meeting will be 10/13 @ 5:15 pm. Agenda items may include an update from Chauncy on his meeting with William, discussion on next steps for the creation a Civil Rights Dept at the City, and an update from the Racial Equity Team.*

Littlejohn made a motion that updates from the Racial Equity Team be a standing item for future agendas, Xiong seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

## Adjournment

**McDermid motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm, Xiong seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.**

*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.*