



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

5:15 PM

LifeSize Virtual Meeting Room

In efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, this meeting will be conducted through video conferencing. The meeting can be viewed by clicking this link (or typing the URL in your web browser address bar): <https://stream.lifesizecloud.com/extension/4857797/a8c61270-e220-4ad3-a234-c76d9d7dde51>

If you wish to speak on an agenda item, you can do so as part of the virtual meeting. Contact the Planning & Development Department at the email or phone number below so we can provide you with the necessary information to join in.

Members of the public who would like to provide written comments on any agenda may do so by emailing kuhlmanl@cityoflacrosse.org, using a drop box outside of City Hall or mailing the Planning & Development Department, 400 La Crosse Street, La Crosse WI 54601. Questions, call 608-789-7361.

Call to Order

Turner called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm.

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Julia McDermid, Chauncy M Turner, Chelsey Myhre-Foster, Tashyra Bernard, Kristen Ringgenberg
Excused: 3 - Tracy Littlejohn, A Xiong, Mac Kiel

Notices and Discussions

Katye Sargent introduced herself and provided a review of the Racial Equity Team's meeting. There are 14 members now with a new chairperson and vice chairperson. They are researching plans from other communities and reviewing the municipal code for equity considerations.

Approval of Minutes

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

Agenda Items:

1 [22-0065](#) REACH Introduction - Loretta LaPoint

LaPoint was unable to attend, so staff will schedule a time to visit.

2 [22-0054](#) Planning for Town Hall w/ Elected Officials

McDermid suggested hosting an event, possibly a panel, on how to handle racism in the workplace (from employees and customers). Jackson said it is important to consider the culture of your business you want to consistently convey. Turner liked the idea of focusing on a specific topic, such as supporting black-owned businesses; HRC could step up out reach in general as well. McDermid suggested the possibility of a series of town halls, like for policing. Hope Restores is doing series of town halls as well. Sargent requested that the Racial Equity Team be invited to these events.

3 [22-0056](#) Discussion on Strategic Planning Process

McDermid shared the strategic planning framework the HRC did with Jason Gilman; it needs measurable goals. McDermid suggests the plan answer how the City can address human rights and racial issues on a regular basis; Madison's Civil Rights Dept. can serve as a model. Turner envisioned that the plan would outline how the HRC can create policy. Staff can include comprehensive plan updates at meetings. Previous workshop was two evening meetings, which could be replicated to create goals.

4 [22-0062](#) Discussion on Civil Rights Dept. - Subcommittee

Attachments: [Madison Civil Rights Dept Interview Notes](#)

McDermid spoke with Jacqui Marcou and she would be willing to speak to the HRC about her work collaborating with GARE. Staff scheduled a meeting with Madison's Civil Rights Dept. Director and invited members of the HRC to join. Myhre-Foster suggested including staff from the Citizens with Disabilities Committee to be invited.

Next Meeting / Agenda Items

The next meeting will be 2/9. Agenda items may include RET update, comprehensive plan update, town hall organizing, strategic planning, recap of meeting with Madison's Civil Rights Dept., GARE information sharing, and REACH introduction. Members requested using Zoom instead of LifeSize.

Adjournment

McDermid motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:58pm, seconded by Jackson. 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, with as much advance notice as possible.