



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

5:15 PM

Eagle Room

This meeting is also being held virtually. E-mail kuhlman@cityoflacrosse.org if you have trouble logging in.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://cityoflacrosse-org.zoom.us/j/88525522441?pwd=cUh5OG41d1pydTntZWV1VS95b0FSdz09>

Meeting ID: 885 2552 2441 Passcode: 330906

Join by phone

+1 (646) 931-3860

Call to Order

Littlejohn called the meeting to order at 5:24 pm

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Tracy Littlejohn, Julia McDermid, Mac Kiel, Tashyra Bernard, Kristen Lettner

Excused: 2 - A Xiong, Kristen Ringgenberg

Approval of Minutes

Lettner motioned to approve the minutes, Bernard seconded. The motion carried by acclamation.

Agenda Items:

- 1 [23-0265](#) March Updates from Racial Equity Team, REACH, and Homelessness Coordinator

The Racial Equity Team did not meet this month so there was no update.

Brian Sampson emailed that Houska is closing on 3/15. There are about eight people remaining. He's been going out with the Homeless Outreach Team twice a week for the past month to answer any questions people have and help connect them to services. Littlejohn mentioned that Parks will be reseeding grass and cleaning up the area.

- 2 [23-0215](#) Request to sponsor 2023 Juneteenth celebration

Attachments: [2023 Juneteenth Partner Letter \(Online Version\)](#)

Bernard gave overview of success of last year's event and suggested increasing the sponsorship amount as the event grows. The City sponsored the Juneteenth Celebration in 2022 at \$5,000 to go toward meals so attendees could eat for free. McDermid suggested going big on the request. Staff was unaware what the Mayor's DEI Fund is budgeted for this year. There are also other diversity events in need of sponsorship.

Kiel motioned to sponsor up to \$10,000, McDermid seconded. The motion carried by acclamation.

3 [22-0343](#)

Strategic Planning

Attachments: [Draft Actions \(March 2023\)](#)
[Draft Goals \(Nov 2022\)](#)
[Draft Vision, Mission, and Core Values \(Sep 2022\)](#)
[Strategic Planning Workshop Results \(Jul 2016\)](#)

Staff added actions from housing vision statement provided by McDermid; numerical priority just tracks with the order actions were listed in the vision. McDermid reminded commission about suggestion to schedule a working group meeting; Littlejohn volunteered to send out a poll of possible times. Bernard suggested discussing one goal at a time. McDermid suggested identifying partners for the goals and asking them for action suggestions (what the City can do to help them). Commissioners named possible partners and suggested that some actions listed could help meet multiple goals.

Parks is hiring an Inclusive Recreation Coordinator. McDermid mentioned Alliance to Heal has a new coordinator, focused on reducing stigma for addiction. McDermid mentioned an opportunity for hotel staff to get training on addressing overdoses. Lettner asked about landlord education about Project Proven; McDermid said there have been positive news articles.

4 [22-1024](#)

Discussion on housing as a human right.

Attachments: [The Right to Adequate Housing - Training Module](#)
[What Does the 'Human Right to Adequate Housing' Mean?](#)
[Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration](#)
[Toronto Housing Charter – Opportunity for All](#)
[City of Madison - Housing as a Human Right Resolution Draft](#)

McDermid will work on resolution and send roadmap.

Bernard motioned to table this agenda item until the workshop, Lettner seconded. The motion carried by acclamation.

Adjournment

Littlejohn adjourned the meeting at 6:26 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.