



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Meeting Minutes

### Human Rights Commission

---

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

5:15 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

---

#### Roll Call

Chairman Spivey called the meeting to order at 5:20 PM

Present: 5 - Jacqueline Marcou, Ashley Lacenski, Will Van Roosenbeek, Elizabeth Digby-Britten, Shaundel Spivey

Excused: 3 - Rose Reinert, Vacant 1, Vacant 2

Others Present: Jason Gilman, Erica Borde, Hetti Brown, Deborah Kelly, Sarah Fortune, Lori Lunney, Brad Williams

#### Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Marcou, seconded by Lacenski, to approve the December 20, 2017 minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

#### Agenda Items:

- [17-1318](#) Complaint filed by Genean Thomas vs. City of La Crosse Housing Authority -Update on November 8, 2017 directive to find an independent fact finder.

**Attachments:** [Request received 9-28-17 from Housing Authority attorney](#)  
[Letter from Genean Thomas 11/7/17](#)

A motion was made by Marcou, seconded by Van Roosenbeek, to have the Planning department look into funds the commission has available and request the needed copies from the City of La Crosse Housing Authority at a cost of 25 cents per page, totaling to \$165.25. The motion passed by voice vote.

A motion was made by Marcou, seconded by Lacenski, to contact Godfrey & Khan as an independent fact finder. The motion passed by voice vote. Van Roosenbeek suggested creating a scope of services letter for the independent fact finder. Spivey requested expectations be sent to him so they may be summarized and sent to legal, and they sent on to the independent fact finder. A motion was made by Marcou, seconded by Lacenski, to recommend to Thomas that this complaint be filed with HUD, so that process may begin as well. The motion passed by voice vote.
- [17-1537](#) Complaint filed by Patricia Thomas vs. City of La Crosse Housing Authority -Review of response received by the City of La Crosse Human Rights Commission from Hale Skemp Hanson Skemp & Sleik Attorneys & Counselors at Law, representing the Housing Authority of the City of La

Crosse, dated December 22, 2017.

*(Note: The Board may convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 19.85(1) (a) regarding deliberating a case which is the subject of a quasi-judicial body. Following any closed session, the Board may reconvene in open session.)*

**Attachments:**     [Request received 11-27-17 from Housing Authority attorney](#)  
[Request received 12-4-17 from Housing Authority attorney](#)

A motion was made at 5:39 PM by Digby-Britten, seconded by Marcou, to move into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 19.85(1). The motion carried by voice vote. At 5:54 PM a motion was made by Marcou, seconded by Van Roosenbeek, to reconvene in open session. The motion carried by voice vote. A motion was made by Lacenski, seconded by Digby-Britten, to contact Godfrey & Khan as an independent fact finder. The motion passed by voice vote. A motion was made by Lacenski, seconded by Van Roosenbeek, to recommend to Patricia Thomas that this complaint be filed with HUD, so that process may begin as well. The motion passed by voice vote.

3.     [17-1790](#)

Update on proposed resolution 17-1579

Spivey notified the commission that a meeting will be set up with the Mayor, to discuss HRC goals and legislation.

4.     [17-1004](#)

Update on letter to school district following complaint filed by Elizabeth Digby-Britten

Spivey is writing a letter to the school district, informing them that the commission wants to talk about what diversity efforts have been made.

5.     [17-1164](#)

Announcements/Community Events

The Seven Rivers LGBTQ Center of La Crosse has requested the HRC's support of their future educational sessions. A motion was made by Lacenski, seconded by Digby-Britten, to approve this support. The motion passed by voice vote. Spivey requests that minutes from these educational events be sent to the HRC.

January 24th 6:00-8:00 PM - Coloring and Wings at Buffalo Wild Wings to support the Center. The Center will receive 10% of sales.

January 27th - The Center's annual meeting will be held at 1509 King St

February 22nd - An education session will be held

6.     [17-1111](#)

HRC Member Vacancy

Mayor Kabat is meeting with applicants.

7.     [18-0106](#)

Discussion of the statue at Riverside Park

More educational events will occur surrounding this topic. The HRC is working on legislation, and calls for continued healthy dialogue.

8.     [18-0107](#)

HRC Training

**Attachments:**    [DCR Training Descriptions](#)  
[Certified Community Partners Outreach](#)  
[Comm Ed Outreach](#)  
[Protected classes definitions](#)  
[CCP Flyer](#)

Marcou reached out to the Madison Civil Rights Council about potential trainings for commissioners. Some trainings are free, and some others have a fee attached. Marcou stated working with this group would provide a wealth of information for the commission. Attached are several training options to be considered.

9.    [18-0118](#)    Safe Space Decorum

Digby-Britten spoke about how the commission can establish its meetings as a safe space. It was suggested that in the future, meetings could begin with a statement acknowledging privileges and asking for respectful dialogue during meetings and events.

10.    [18-0119](#)    Monthly Listening Sessions

Future listening sessions will be announced as they are scheduled.

11.    [17-1317](#)    Public Forum

A motion was made by Van Roosenbeek, seconded by Marcou, to go into public forum. The motion carried by voice vote. A member of the public asked if the meeting between the HRC and the Mayor will be noticed. Yes, it will be. A motion was made by Marcou, seconded by Digby-Britten to close the open forum. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion was made by Van Roosenbeek, seconded by Marcou, to go back into open forum. Thomas asked to talk Mayor Kabat about Housing Authority complaint and a loss of Section 8 vouchers. The attorney representing the Housing Authority stated that HUD has radically reduced Section 8. A motion was made by Van Roosenbeek, seconded by Marcou, to close open forum. The motion carried by voice vote.

### Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 21, 2018 at 5:15 pm. Alternate date will be February 28, 2018 at 5:15 PM. Agenda items may include complaints, school district letter, safe space decorum, and community event announcements.

### Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Van Roosenbeek, seconded by Marcou. The motion carried by 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.*