



## Meeting Minutes

### Human Rights Commission

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Wednesday, December 13, 2023

5:15 PM

Eagle Room

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#### Call to Order

Littlejohn called the meeting to order at 5:26 pm.

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 5 - Tracy Littlejohn, Julia McDermid, Mac Kiel, Gretchen Guinn  
Paquette, Claire Bakalars

**Excused:** 2 - A Xiong, Tashyra Bernard

#### Approval of Minutes

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

#### Agenda Items:

- 1 [23-1488](#) Presentation on Winter Homelessness Emergency Plan  
  
*Brian Sampson provided overview. Criteria include severe weather warnings from the National Weather Service for blizzards, wind chill and extreme cold. The capacity of the facility is 40 people and past total use has reached 38 people.*
- 2 [23-0413](#) Monthly Updates From RET, REACH, and Homelessness Coordinator  
  
*Northwood sent a message stating: The REACH Center has two new client meeting rooms up and ready to go since the renovations. The Homeless Persons Memorial will be held at REACH on December 21, from 1-3 pm. There is a tree with memorial ornaments set up in the front foyer for folx that would like to stop by. The Total Navigation Team meets on Tuesdays from 10-2 pm and can connect folx with services and case management. If anyone is working with folx that need items available at Goodwill, REACH has Good Neighbor cards to help meet those needs.*
- 3 [23-1489](#) Discussion and direction on adding "homelessness status" to the list of protected classes in the municipal code.  
  
**Attachments:** [Hyperlink](#)  
  
*Staff provided an overview and will compile a list of communities that include homelessness and why. Littlejohn suggested including news articles. Kiel suggested adding education about why this is being included, and coordinating with Sampson to keep language consistent with homelessness plan.*

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](#)

*Littlejohn intends to separate out "Therefore Be It Resolved..." paragraphs into 4 different resolutions. Kiel suggested prioritizing the resolutions in order. Littlejohn suggested reiterating the HRC's purpose in the strategic plan. Kiel shared that Habitat for Humanity could do a training or activity related to the history of housing struggles in La Crosse. McDermid mentioned that evictions have been rising.*

## **Adjournment**

**Littlejohn adjourned the meeting at 6:02 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](mailto:ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org), with as much advance notice as possible.*