



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

5:15 PM

Zoom

To keep the public safe, this meeting is being held virtually only. E-mail kuhlmanl@cityoflacrosse.org if you have trouble logging in.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87457740544>
Meeting ID: 874 5774 0544
One tap mobile: +13126266799,,87457740544# US
Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kdcS8Fapq6>

Call to Order

Littlejohn called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

Notices and Discussion

The Commission introduced themselves to Lettner and she introduced herself.

Agenda Items:

- 1 [22-0342](#) Election of Officers

McDermid nominated Littlejohn for chairperson, Myhre-Foster seconded. McDermid motioned to close nominations, Myhre-Foster seconded. Xiong motioned to elect Littlejohn as chairperson, McDermid Seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

McDermid nominated Myhre-Foster for vice-chairperson. Myhre-Foster nominated McDermid, Xiong seconded. Xiong motioned to close nominations, Myhre-Foster seconded. McDermid declined nomination.

Xiong motioned to refer elections to next month, McDermid Seconded. There was no opposition.

- 2 [22-0304](#) Fair Housing Complaint - Becky J. Olson v. Dale @ Wedgewood Commons -

Determination whether the complaint alleges sufficient facts that if true, relief could be granted and therefore whether complaint is actionable.

Attachments: [Complaint \(Redacted\)](#)

Muller said all Wedgewood Commons tenants are connected to WiFi and can be e-mailed at the same time. Littlejohn asked if management gets notified when police officers come on the premises; Muller stated they visit office before coming in and have a key code to access the building after office hours. HRC deliberated in closed session.

Myhre-Foster motioned to dismiss this case for a lack of evidence of discrimination, McDermid seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

- 3 [22-0307](#) Fair Housing Complaint - Alexis Aleman v. Shawn McTaggart - Determination whether the complaint alleges sufficient facts that if true, relief could be granted and therefore whether complaint is actionable.

Attachments: [Complaint \(Redacted\)](#)

[Aleman Follow-Up Letter - 3/8/2022](#)

[Move-In Checklist & Maintenance Requests for 1325 Jackson \(2021-22\)](#)

Aleman had issues with the fill-able form and only meant to check age and student status; she hadn't been notified of contractor work that had been done; Shea Ealey responded that tenants do not need to be notified about work in common areas. Ealey requested maintenance request forms for issues Aleman cited. All adult lessees share responsibility for lawn mowing and snow shoveling. Xiong requested clarification on maintenance requests. McDermid asked if upstairs neighbors could corroborate Aleman's discrimination complaint. Aleman cited complaints about this specific landlord on a general group about landlords. Lettner asked if the lease agreement covers how tenants are billed for snow and weed removal citations. Aleman complained that the lease was unclear that basement electricity was on first floor account; Ealey said rent is adjusted to reflect negligible added cost. Aleman stated that lower level utility bill is about four times more than upper floor; Ealey responded that upper floor is smaller and has different type of heating unit. HRC deliberated in closed session.

McDermid motioned to dismiss this case due to lack of evidence of discrimination, Myhre-Foster seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

- 4 [22-0198](#) Accept Code of Ethics

Attachments: [Municipal Code of Ethics](#)

McDermid motioned to accept the Code of Ethics and that the Ethics Board review Sec. 2-132(5), Xiong seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

- 5 [22-0054](#) Planning for Town Hall w/ Elected Officials

Littlejohn referred this item to the next meeting by acclamation.

- 6 [22-0062](#) Discussion on Civil Rights Dept. - Subcommittee

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

Littlejohn referred this item to the next meeting by acclamation.

- 7 [22-0199](#) Discussion on Fair Housing Complaint Application Improvements

Attachments: [Fair Housing Webpage](#)
 [HRC Webpage](#)

Littlejohn referred this item to the next meeting by acclamation.

- 8 [22-0343](#) Strategic Planning

Attachments: [Human Rights Commission Ordinance](#)
 [HRC Mission, Vision, and Action Items \(2020\)](#)

Littlejohn referred this item to the next meeting by acclamation.

Next Meeting / Agenda Items

The next meeting will be April 13. Agenda items may include Town Hall planning, Civil Right Dept. discussion, Fair Housing Complaint application, and Strategic Planning.

Adjournment

Littlejohn adjourned the meeting at 7:22 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.