



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Wednesday, February 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 5:22 pm

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Tracy Littlejohn, Julia McDermid, Mac Kiel, Tashyra Bernard, Kristen Ringgenberg, Kristen Lettner

Excused: 1 - A Xiong

Approval of Minutes

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

Agenda Items:

- 1 [23-0068](#) Accept Code of Ethics

Attachments: [Municipal Code of Ethics](#)

The commissioners accepted the code of ethics

- 2 [22-1522](#) February Updates on Discrimination Complaints, Racial Equity Team, REACH, and Homelessness Coordinator

Attachments: [Equity and Diversity Survey Poster](#)

Racial Equity Team: Did not meet this month. There's a poster for their survey attached to this file.

A representative from REACH was not able to attend, but emailed availability--current office hours are M, T, Th, and F 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m; W by appointment only. Legal Action, La Crosse County Economic Support, United Health, Winter Family Sheltering, Veteran's Services, La Crosse County Social Workers, La Crosse County Immunization Clinic Flu and COVID, and Remedy Staffing host days and times monthly in the REACH Center to meet the needs of consumers.

Brian Sampson did not have any updates for the commission.

3 [22-0343](#) Strategic Planning

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

Staff suggested incorporating the housing as a human right into the actions.

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 talked about the vision statement that was shared with the Commission. It included action items for the City to take on. It is shameful that there have been 9 deaths (and one on his deathbed) among La Crosse's homeless population (36 people, but not all have been counted).

Public comment: Mary spoke of hospitalized man found cold and alone; she requested more transparency into how City housing money is spent. Eric thanked the Commission and staff for their attention to the issue.

Kiel requested clarifications on next steps. Littlejohn suggested scheduling a longer meeting to workshop policy. McDermid needs to finish the resolution. She is working to build off of Madison's model. The actions in the vision statement need a timeline. She recommends forming a coalition to approve a homelessness strategic plan (there was a draft plan that was abandoned). This work needs to keep up its momentum.

Kiel motioned to open a public hearing, McDermid seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

McDermid motioned to close a public hearing, Kiel seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

5 [22-0062](#) Discussion on Civil Rights Dept.

Attachments: [Madison Civil Rights Dept Interview Notes \(January 2022\)](#)
[GARE Presentation Memo \(August 2018\)](#)

Staff needs to fill out GARE intake form to have its Race Forward Training Strategies

connect staff with a team of trainers. GARE's Director met with La Crosse staff and several common council members in 2018 upon request from a council member.

Adjournment

Kiel motioned to adjourn at 5:51 pm, Lettner seconded. The 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.