



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Monday, February 3, 2020

5:15 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

Call to Order

Chauncy Turner called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Julie McDermid, Justice Weaver, Brandon Perrine, Jonathan Maye-Cates, Nese Nasif, Rhonda Staats, Chauncy M. Turner

Excused: 1 - A Xiong

Approval of Minutes

A motion by Staats, seconded by Perrine to approve the previous meeting minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

Agenda Items:

1. Updates for the Waking Up White reading group.

Update from Nese Nasif. Nese prepped a PPT to be used for class presentation and request for assistance with the development of a website and marketing strategy plus materials. Nese also stated that the YWCA suggested targeting a single bank rather than a whole organization (such as the Lender's Association) for the Waking Up White Reading Challenge project. A suggestion would be Marine Credit Union. Nese also stated that Thomas Harris from UWL will get in touch with us about time and space for the grants project to be shared at the Waking Up White Symposium in October 2020.

2. UWL class presentation.

Julie reports that Mayor Kabat is in support of the idea. Chauncy will draft a "challenge" letter the HRC can use to provide to targeted organizations. The letter shall include the following:

- a. Mission/goal of the project
- b. Explanation of the focus on racism for the HRC – how this challenge fits the HRC mission
- c. What the challenge is – book reading and discussion
- d. An offer for an HRC rep to come to an organization meeting to share more details
- e. Information on connection to trained facilitators for discussions
- f. Information about the upcoming Waking Up White Symposium in October

2020

The group also agreed to meet informally at Java Vino on 2/24 at 5:30pm for their own reading group discussion of the book.

3. Report on meeting with Mayor Kabat.

Julie reported that she met with Mayor Kabat to discuss the current plans of the HRC. Mayor Kabat expressed support for the idea of grants offered by the HRC. He made the suggestion of partnering with local groups to fundraise for this, possibly Beer By Bike Brigade or others. The group discussed this at length and agreed that understanding the current budget/balance available is necessary and what restrictions there are with regards to using the currently available funding. It was also agreed that it must be clear to the community about the purpose for the funds – why is a city commission asking for money. Julie also reported that the Mayor really liked the idea of the Waking Up White Reading Group challenges and offered to help or support as requested. Mayor Kabat also expressed support of the development of a strategic plan and a new website/social media presence to increase the HRC's community profile and support. Regarding legislative issues the Mayor expressed that he would like the HRC to help increase diversity in City departments. He supports the idea of HRC Commissioners accessing GARE technical assistance and/or sending some Commissioners to GARE conferences focused on increasing diversity in employment.

4. Draft new media statement in our direction for the year.

The group agreed that drafting a new media statement should possibly come after the strategic plan is fully developed.

5. Action on weather to meet with Julie Henline of Gensler.

Chauncy Turner offered to talk with Julie Henline to see if she would be willing to attend the March HRC meeting to complete a strategic plan.

6. Discussion on grant announcement at symposium.

The group agreed these items had been discussed as a part of previous agenda items.

7. Set a timeline for the gala.

The group agreed these items had been discussed as a part of previous agenda items.

8. Discussion on next steps in the Strategic Plan.

Chauncy Turner offered to talk with Julie Henline to see if she would be willing to attend the March HRC meeting to complete a strategic plan.

Adjournment

A motion by Maye-Cates, seconded by Perrine to adjourn. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 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.