

**Duluth Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2018**

- I. **Members Present:** Rebecca Domagala, Ashley Grimm, Ashley Neenan, Charles Obije, Sandra van den Bosse, and Amy Wilcox
Members Absent: Carl Huber, Princess Kisob
Community Members Present: Deb Holman, Jason Kenison , Cruz Mendoza, and Kathleen Spencer

- II. **Call to Order:** Chair van den Bosse called the meeting to order at 5:32

- III. **Consent Agenda:** Accepted, no minutes to approve from September

- IV. **Chair Report:**
 - a. Sandra is working with Phil Jents from the Mayor's office to get all Commission members nametags.
 - b. Sandra will be following up with Mayor Larson about the appointment of the currently vacant commissioner seat.
 - c. UMD has been promoting the upcoming Soles to the Polls event on Saturday. The flyers that have been printed do not include the Human Rights Commission but it will be announced at the event.
 - d. Sandra would like to see a chair appointed for every committee so everyone knows who to speak to about what is happening.

- V. **Vice Chair Report:**
 - a. Ashley Grimm met with William Howes at ISD 709 to discuss how the Commission can be more involved with education and the district's Equity Committee.

- VI. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Findings:** No recent meetings. Has decided to meet the third Monday of the month over the noon hour in Carl Crawford's office.

 - b. **Education:** No recent meetings. Ashley Grimm advised that ISD 709's Education Equity committee is going through some changes so it may not makes sense for our committee to join theirs at this time. She will be drafting a letter to Superintendent Bill Gronseth and the School Board in the next 3 days to see how the Commission can be included in their work toward lessening the disparities of the discipline of students of color and special education students. It was also discussed if the Duluth Human Rights Commission should be given all of the information the state Human Rights Office is given.

 - c. **CEDAW:** Ashley Grimm attended a CEDAW meeting will be rescheduled due to the lack of attendance.

- d. Human Rights Rubric:** Due to the sensitive information the Rubric includes, this is a meeting that will need to take place with Carl Crawford in his office. No meeting has been scheduled at this time.
- e. Homeless Person's Bill of Rights:** The next step this group is working on is to get warming centers to be available to people now that the weather is getting colder. The mayor's office is still focused on hygiene facilities but Deb Holman would like to see this switch due to the time of year. Kathleen Spencer advised that she will be attending the DTA Board meeting on Wednesday, October 24th at 5:30pm at 2402 W Michigan St. She asked if Commissioners can attend as well. Amy and Charles both agreed to attend. They would like to ask the DTA Board if they will leave the Transit Center open 24 hours this winter when the temperature is dangerously low. Ashley Grimm will be contacting Bronwyn at the Mayor's office to see about setting up a meeting around this topic.
- VII. Soles to the Polls plan:** Commissioners will be attending this event and co-sponsoring it. The commission will be tabling and getting the word out about what the commission is about. Ashley Neenan, Sandra van den Bosse, and Rebecca Domagala will table from 12:30-3:00 and the Amy Wilcox and Charles Obije will table from 3:00-5:30. Ashley Neenan will create a sign for the table and Sandra will bring a tablecloth. The event runs from 1:00pm-5:00pm on Saturday, October 13th at Denfeld High School.
- VIII. Protective Gear Discussion:** Jason advised that Prism and the Homeless Person's Bill of Rights have both issued statements against the Duluth Police Department purchasing riot gear. He stated some statistics about militarizing police department and what that means for the safety of marginalized people in the community as well as the safety of the police officers. He will be sending the sources he had to Chair van den Bosse for the commission to reference and review. Kathy provided a document showing that the Mayor's budget allocated the money for riot gear specifically in both 2018 and 2019. It does not roll over. There was an ask for the commission to issue a statement against the purchase of riot gear by the Duluth Police Department.

Motion: Charles motioned that we table the topic of the riot gear until the next meeting so the entire commission can get more details and data in order to make an informed decision. Ashley Neenan seconds. Motion passed 4-1 with one abstention.
- IX. Community Correspondence:** The third community event about the purchasing of riot gear by the Duluth Police Department will be happening on Thursday, October 11th from 5:30-7:00 at the Historic Central High School.
- X. Public Comments:** None
- XI. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:21pm