

Duluth Human Rights Commission (HRC)

Special Meeting - minutes

Thursday, June 30, 2022 @ 5:30pm

City Hall Room 330

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 5:33am
 - b. Commissioners present: Commissioner Keppers, Commissioner Tyacke, Commissioner Jaramillo, Commissioner Huber, Commissioner Wittenberg, & Commissioner Lue
 - c. Commissioners absent: Commissioners van den Bosse, Commissioner Lyons, & Commissioner Singer
 - d. Guests: Human Rights Officer (HRO) Carl Crawford
2. Consent of Minutes - April 13, 2022
 - a. Motioned to approve by Commissioner Huber; seconded by Commissioner Tyacke; approved unanimously by the Commissioners
3. Public Comments and Written Comments
 - a. Written public comments submitted prior to meeting
 - i. None
 - b. Live public comments
 - i. None
4. Executive Team & DPD Ride Along Report
 - a. ISD 709 data on inequities from the Minnesota Human Rights Commission - is there information that could be forwarded to the events committee to help steer their educational events
 - i. This information is available from the state, and is made public to the community
 - ii. Commissioner Huber will help with research for this topic
 - b. Pride Tabling - September 3rd
 - i. The executive team will meet to discuss how we want to do this
 - c. St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference
 - i. A proposal was submitted and accepted
 - ii. Officer Crawford, Commissioner Lue, and Commissioner Jaramillo will be presenting for the commission, the topic being who we are and what we do
 - iii. There is discussion for creating QR codes to pull up the complaint form on our website, to have that for the presentation
 - iv. Is there funding for the commission to have a table at the event?
 1. Possibly a better use of commissioner's time would be to attend the session and provide their knowledge
 - d. DPD Ride Along Report
 - i. Commissioner Lue did a ride along back in March 2022 with an officer (Spencer Pitzel) out in the West Duluth Morgan Park area, from 7pm to 12:15am
 - ii. The officer and Commissioner Lue discussed racial bias, US current events, mental health first aid, and the purpose of the racial bias audit

- iii. After this experience, Commissioner Lue confronted her own biases, and found a lot of insight in the mindfulness of how the officer approached his work
- iv. A question was posed as to whether these beliefs were the officer's or the department's, and Commissioner Lue shared that she believed the conversation was a personal one

5. Findings Committee Report

- a. Met on June 23rd (eight cases were discussed)
 - i. Most were updates on cases that have already been discussed
 - ii. There has been follow up on the case involving people of religious faiths being provided the space they need at NERC
 - 1. This was mainly due to capacity, but it is being resolved
 - iii. At a public elementary school, a child is getting bullied based on their race
 - 1. A mediation session will be scheduled at all levels of the issue
 - iv. A man was publicly washing his car parked on the grass, and was issued a ticket by the DPD after tempers flared on both sides
 - 1. There will be follow up on this as well

6. Research Committee Report

- a. Nothing on the docket at this time except for the ISD 709 data listed above

7. Communications Committee Report

- a. Compiled information on MMIW, and sent to Lara to post, but it has not been posted yet
- b. TPAC also helped with the information for posting AAPI

8. Events Committee Report

- a. Commissioner Jaramillo will send an email to the Events Committee and Commissioner Huber to find a time to meet and discuss an educational inequities events session
- b. A Duluth School Board meeting will happen on July 19th
 - i. Commissioner Wittenberg will sit on that meeting and bring back any information she learns

9. Racial Bias Audit Update

- a. A small cohort met and conducted interviews, checked references, and has selected an entity to do the racial bias audit
 - i. The next steps are to inform those who were not chosen, and then the entity who was chosen is notified
 - ii. The racial bias audit team will then meet with the entity who has been chosen
- b. If listening sessions or results presentations are a part of the racial bias audit, does the HRC want to be involved in any way?
 - i. Possible collaboration opportunity with the Citizens Review Board
- c. Question from Commissioner Keppers: Chief Tusken is retiring, and does this impact the racial bias audit?
 - i. Chief Tusken is retiring September 1st
 - ii. What role will the potential interim chief play in this racial bias audit?

1. Commissioner Lue will touch base with the DPD to see how this impacts the audit

10. Human Rights Officer Report

- a. Working with the Affordable Housing Coalition, CHUM, and the Step Up Program on solutions to the local housing and rent crisis
- b. The Unity Fund Group held their first Juneteenth celebration to recognize our elders
 - i. Held their first ever Sunday Gospel Brunch, which was a success
- c. The Parks and Rec Conversation regarding the master plan and green spaces
 - i. There are neighborhoods that don't have opportunities to use local parks and green spaces - how do we make this accessible
- d. Working with the Sixth Judicial Branch to make it a welcoming space
 - i. How do we get our young people involved in court careers?
- e. The report of the Minneapolis Police Department and their findings of racial bias statistics
 - i. Officer Crawford will be a part of that conversation about how to move toward solutions locally and nationally
- f. Was a part of the George Floyd "Angel-versary" event
- g. Part of the Employees Champion Workshop about how to increase diversity in employment
 - i. How do we support them and their families?
- h. Iron World Discovery Center discussion on diversity and inclusion regarding new immigrants in the area
 - i. How do we support these families and welcome them in? What does it look like to be welcoming?
- i. The incredible loss of councilor Renne van Nett
 - i. She will be remembered for her work in this community, and her dedication to all
- j. The impact of Roe v. Wade
 - i. A lot of feeling of lost hope
 - ii. Be conscious of surroundings as the Independence Day large gatherings occur
 - iii. Be gentle with how we handle each other
- k. Gun violence has increased, and our community is being impacted

11. Election of Officers

- a. Question:
 - i. Are terms limited?
 1. A term lasts one year, but there are no bylaws considering reelection
- b. Nominations from the floor can occur tonight, for an election in August. The last elections were in August of 2021
 - i. This will require the bylaws to change the language from April to August
 - ii. Commissioner Huber motioned to edit Bylaw 2C from April to August
 1. Commissioner Keppers seconded
 2. The motion was approved
- c. Nominations from the floor:

- i. Commissioner Lue for Chair
 - ii. Commissioner Jaramillo for Secretary
 - iii. Commissioner Huber for Vice Chair
 - iv. More nominations can occur in August if needed
- d. Commissioner Tyacke has also been added to the Communications Committee
- 12. CHUM Homelessness Initiative (Commissioner Huber)
 - a. Peach Church is helping to organize this initiative with CHUM and Loaves and Fishes
 - b. Three phase initiative, called the Stepping Up Initiative (all phases include social services being provided):
 - i. Secure a safe homelessness (people in transition) encampment within city limits
 - ii. Move into a more sheltered area (modeled off of Minneapolis programs)
 - iii. Move into a tiny house or other form of home ownership
 - c. Much of this will be volunteer-led within faith-based communities to provide the volunteer structure
 - d. There will be a huge need for door-knocking, community education, community listening sessions that could possibly be a source of collaboration for the HRC
 - e. Question from Commissioner Keppers: Are there other organizations that are collaborating on this initiative?
 - i. It is a very large initiative that has room for expansion
- 13. Announcements and Upcoming Events
 - a. Kids Cops and Cars is coming up on August 19th 11am-2pm (event held at Bayfront in collaboration with the Citizen Review Board)
 - i. Commissioners should come out, socialize, and introduce themselves to community members
- 14. Additional Public Comments and Commissioner Comments
 - a. Public Comment: On July 12th, ISD 7-9 will be receiving their new SRO contract, which will be voted on at the next board meeting on July 19th
 - i. The public is able to see this contract online starting July 9 and provide comments either via email or at the board meeting
- 15. Request for Agenda Items for Next Meeting
 - a. Any requests can be forwarded onto Lara
- 16. Adjourn
 - a. Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm
 - b. Next meeting is August 10, 2022

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Tyra Jaramillo, Secretary