HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES
Date of Meeting: September 19, 2019
City Hall Facility: Brooklyn Park Community Activity Center, Grand Room 2
Time Began: 6:10 p.m.
Time Adjourned: 7:50 p.m.

Meeting Attendance—Commissioners							
Member	District	Present		Member	District	Present	
		Yes	No			Yes	No
Vacant	West			Mark Hostetler	West	x	
Vacant	East			Christian Eriksen	At-large	x	
Nausheena Hussain	East	x		Cindy Shevlin-Woodcock	Central	x	
Vacant	Central			Scott Volltrauer	At-Large		X Excused
Aja King	At-large	x		Open	Youth		
Wokie Freeman-Gbogba City Staff Liaison		x		Mark Mata	Council Member Liaison	X	

Meeting called to order by Chair Chris Eriksen and attendance taken by Staff Liaison Wokie Freeman-Gbogba.

Commissioner Hussain moved to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Shevlin-Woodcock. Motion approved.

Commissioner Shevlin-Woodcock moved to approve the July 18, 2019 Meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hostetler. Motion approved.

Discuss Promotion of Human Rights Commission – Communications Manager Camille Hepola
The Chair mentioned that the Commission would like to have a conversation about visibility.

Communication struggle/goals – 1. building awareness of what the HRC is, past – what accomplished, future – what's happening. 2. How can you as a resident interact with the commission if there is an issue? 3. Tell stories/testimonials of residents who have had a successful experience.

Do residents know that the HRC is a place to file a bias complaint? Could we promote it on social media, and the website. There are simple things we could do.

There is interest to take human rights a step further to social justice (from the training).

Create an environment for people who are interested in human rights. Possibly hold a meeting twice a month. How do we get more community involvement? Maybe a listening session at a Brooklyn Park Community Assembly/ Partner with Community Engagement.

Possibly, think of some sort of human rights award.

Back in 2005, the Human Relations Commission became Human Rights Commission.

Could there be an open forum for the HRC meetings?
Need clarity on when a complaint comes in, what's the process? What's the HRC's role?

The HRC will work on revising content for the website.

Commissioner King may be interviewed for next year's videos.

Activity/Participation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month/Purple Lights Initiative 2019 – Chair Eriksen and Commissioner Aja King
Council Meeting – Mayor's Proclamation declaring October Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Brooklyn Park
Every Monday in October – a video/infographic
September 26th – Brooklyn Park Community Assembly – Domestic Violence Awareness – need to promote the event – Basic information/specifics and panel (planned to be trauma-informed), resources, provide a safe space

Reports from Subcommittees (Removable Barriers to Diversity, Landlord Training, Human Rights Training) – All
The City responded to the Memo sent by the HRC. The Commissioners are asked to read the response and think about the following:
Would a roundtable discussion be productive? Ask these people to come to the table to discuss the responses?
Regarding offering scholarships to lower barriers to explorer programs, what strikes us as actionable that the HRC could endorse or support?

Could there be requirements to length of time an organization can require a person to work if they have training from the organization?

Landlord Training – Commissioner King will send a flyer to Staff Liaison Freeman-Gbogba. She has reached out to Officer Kim Czapar who convenes the property manager coalition to have the HRC come to present.

Discussion about Housing – Vice-chair Nausheena Hussain has been working with advocates around housing. Talking about possibly amending the housing policies that have been passed in the last 3 months. For example, the parking policy is in direct violation of the housing policy.

Want to ask the Council to establish a Fair Housing Policy Task Force to have stronger language about accountability, assessment, etc. for the Fair Housing Policy. Staff Liaison will ask the City Manager about the process.

City Council Liaison Report – CM Mata passed out the Draft Tenant Notification Ordinance and asked commissioners to send him any feedback or concerns before it comes to Council for the first reading on October 14.

Staff Liaison Wokie Freeman-Gbogba reminded commissioners to come to the Council meeting on September 23rd and come to the September Community Assembly with the topic of Domestic Violence Awareness. Commissioner Aja King will moderate the panel.

Chair Report – N/A

Old Business – N/A

New Business – N/A

Adjournment
Commissioner Hostetler moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner King. Motion approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Staff Liaison Wokie Freeman-Gbogba.