

Brooklyn Park 
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Special Meeting
Thursday, August 17, 2023
Brooklyn Park City Hall, Room A203

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

If you need these materials in an alternative format or need reasonable accommodations for a Human Rights Commission meeting, please provide the City with 72-hours' notice by calling 763-493-8394 or emailing Marcellus Davis at marcellus.davis@brooklynpark.org. Para asistencia, 763-424-8000; Yog xav tau kev pab, 763-424-8000.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Chair Aja King – 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call/Attendance – Staff Liaison Marcellus Davis – 6:02 p.m.
3. Approval of Agenda – All – 6:08 p.m.
4. Approval of the May 18, 2023 meeting minutes- All- 6:09 p.m.
5. Sister City Human Rights Conversation with Community Engagement (Josie Shardlow Community Engagement Manager) – All – 6:10 p.m.
6. Juneteenth & Pride Event Updates-Dr. Davis – 6:40 p.m.
7. Attendance- ALL-6:50 p.m.
8. Bias report – All – 7:00 p.m.
9. Back 2 School Drive – 7:15 – Dr. Davis p.m.
10. City Council Liaison Report – Council Member Boyd Morson – 7:35 p.m.
11. City Staff Report – Marcellus – 7:45 p.m.
12. Old Business – 7:50 p.m.
13. New Business – 7:52 p.m.
14. Adjournment – All – 7:55 p.m.

Brooklyn Park

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES

Date of Meeting: May 18, 2023

Location: City Hall – Room A203

Time Began: 6:00 p.m.

Time Adjourned: 7:55 p.m.

Meeting Attendance—Commissioners							
Member	District	Present		Member	District	Present	
		Yes	No			Yes	No
Chelsea Youngquist	West		X	Mark Hostetler	West	X	
Andrea Perez-Maikkula	Central	X		Brenda Blackhawk	At-large	X	
	East			Kevin Xiong	Central		X
Minn Wang	Central	X		Andy Vue	Emerging Leader		X
Aja King	At-large	X		Vacant	Emerging Leader		
Jen Best	At-large	X					
Marcellus Davis	City Staff Liaison	X		Council Member Boyd Morson	Council Member Liaison		X

1. Call to Order – Chair Dr. King – 6:10 p.m.
2. Roll Call/Attendance – Staff Liaison Dr. Marcellus Davis – 6:11 p.m.
3. Approval of Agenda – All – 6:12 p.m.
 - i. Co-Chair Hostetler, Blackhawk, seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion was approved.
 - iii. Amendments Catrice O’neal visit at 6:50pm. & Audrianna visit at 7:40pm
4. Approval of minutes from the February & March 19, 2023 – All – 6:09 p.m.
 - i. A motion was made to approve the minutes from February & March.
 - ii. Commissioners Blackhawk and Hostetler seconded the motion, and it was approved.
5. Just Deeds – All – 6:10 p.m.
 - Good turn out – about 60 community members
 - Panel made up of different sectors – Lawyer, School Representation, real estate agent, data analyst
 - Education person was able to talk about impact of property tax
 - Maps – what you can and can’t do with maps/data
 - Looking at doing some work around racial healing – community ready for what is next.
 - Opportunity for more conversations and the HRC could step in here.
 - Could also consider developing a guide to shut down or speak up against racist.
 - What issues do white folks have with talking about race.
 - Equity at the core is the redistribution of power and resources.

6. Economic Equity Update – All – 6:25 p.m.

- Mark shared PowerPoint slides (include in the minutes)

Feedback:

- Evidence that we want to do more than the scope of the HRC. This is not bad but it needs to be named.
- **Identify the Problem:**
 - i. Need to be intentional with how this is phrased, language includes suffering and things being done to the people without naming who is responsible.
 - ii. We have the big ideal of capitalism being a big oppressive system, how do we funnel it down to a tangible conversation that is applicable to the community?
 - iii. Taking this big thing and breaking it into things we can achieve.
 - iv. Need to define poverty in a human centered way – flush this out more.
 1. Capitalism is root cause, poverty is a symptom
 - v. What does poverty look like racially? (MN ranks in the top 3 for places for black people to live.) Poverty looks different based on your melanin and your nationality.
 - vi. Need define economic equity
 - vii. Dig into livable wage – what does this mean? How do we define living – is it more than paying for basic needs?
 - viii. Narrative – people who are poor can't manage their income. What does a healthy American look like?
 1. Mortgage (because owning a home is the American dream), insurance, car, car insurance, food, utilities, entertainment, saving for an emergency fund, etc.
- **Form a BP Alliance for Economic Equity Team & An Auxiliary Support team**
 - i. The people experiencing the problem need to be the center and should not be expected to work for free; Can stipends be provided to participants?
 - ii.
- **Build a network of Collaborators.**
 - i. This will take a lot of legwork to get the “right” voices to the table to even get to a set of recommendations to the City.
 - ii. People is power.
- **Gather city leaders, collaborators, and residents for an Economic Equity Forum in July**
 - i. There is \$0 to put this together.
 - ii. Can we start small with the people we know?
 - iii. What would the logistics look like?
 - iv. Need to be clear on intention – is the idea to learn about the issue or get the teams together?
 1. Session 1 – data – we think we know but do we?
 - v. Strategy – find some of the collaborators. Where are people naturally gathering? How do we have 1-on-1 asks and talk to people as humans?
 1. Identify the self-interest of people.
 - vi. Where are the people we want to talk to?
 - vii. Schedule focus groups or listening sessions.
- Coordinate with communications and provide updates through newsletter on what we are learning and how we are listening. We can ask for interest and people to volunteer at the same time.

- Likely need to slow down and take a humble approach. Characteristics of White Supremacy Culture is a sense of urgency.
- What role does the mayor have?
 - Needs to be aware and engaged.
 - May need financial resources.
 - Could he address this issue at the State of the City in a few months?
 - i. Statistics
 - ii. Definitions
 - iii. What we are doing
 - iv. What do people in BP say they need?

7. Mayor State of the City – All – 7:00 p.m.

- Laid out his vision. We should follow up on this.

8. Huntington Place Update – Mark – 7:57 p.m.

- AEON experiencing financial hardships and working hard to not go into foreclosure.
- If that happens, the bank will take it over.
- 900 units, 200 unoccupied – 20% not paying rent regularly.
- Approximately 3000 people living there.

9. Special Meeting w/ Chief Mark Bruley Recap – All – 7:15 p.m.

10. City Council Liaison Report – Council Member Boyd Morson – 7:25 p.m.

- No update

11. City Staff Report – Marcellus – 7:30 p.m.

12. Old Business – 7:35 p.m.

13. New Business – 7:37 p.m.

- Breanne Rothstein (PB Housing & Economic Development Director) & Sarah Abe (PB Economic Development Project Coordinator) will be at the June meeting.
 - See if they can bring the Brooklyn Park Demographics data packet.
- What is the update with communications?
- Violence Prevention role being hired at the City – will be working closely with PD and reporting to the City Manager. Dr Davis will schedule this new hire to come to an HRC meeting in a few months.
- Audrianna –
 - Junior at Park Center High School; co-captain of the speech team and PRISM (LGBTQ+ affinity group at the school)
 - Looking at hosting a pride event in BP – working with someone who hosted an event in Maple Grove but MG is not very open to holding that space this year. Planning a family event, not just for students
 - Looking for:
 - a grant for expenses for the event:
 - a space that allows amplified sound
 - Duane Wardlley – Director of Educational Equity at District 279
 - Dr. Davis will send a connecting email
 - He has access to these facilities and supports this
 - Media outlets: promoting online through Facebook and public groups; can post to school app.
 - Working with 2 leaders from Park Center – Miss Suzanne and Miss Roll – 2 leaders of PRISM. Some admin staff have been helpful.
 - Define learning objectives and outcomes. Dr. Davis willing to help define these.

- 1. To connect people with resources such as gender affirming care and mental health resources
- 2. Help people find their community in BP
- 3. Show we are visible. We are here in this city.
- Date: Late June
- Financially the HRC can't help financially but we can bring awareness and ideate.
 - We can also advocate to City Council for a Pride flag raising or something else like that.
 - Possible partnership with the BP library – have resources out all month,
- Hennepin Technical College may be able to give space for free
- Consider partnering with a student resource group at Hennepin Tech.

14. Adjournment – All – 7:40 p.m.

Submitter: Marcellus Davis