

Owatonna Human Rights Commission
Minutes

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission (OHRC) met on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, in the Meeting Room of the Charles S. Crandall Center. Chairman Commissioner Cords called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Commissioner Vanoosbree took roll call; present were Commissioners Cords, Leon, Gunderson, Esquivel, Ismael and Vanoosbree; and Administrative Coordinator Clawson. Commissioner Emanuelson and City Administrator Busse were unable to attend.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Cords welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested the agenda be accepted as presented. Commissioner Vanoosbree made a motion to approve Minutes of the December 12, 2023, Meeting as presented; Commissioner Leon seconded the motion, all members present voted aye for approval.

Commissioners present received a magnetic nametag with the City's new logo. Commissioner Emanuelson received his last week when he stopped at the Administration Office for event posters.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commission Chairman Cords commented he received an email from SEMCAC confirming receipt of our Final Report for the Legacy Grant used towards the Owatonna Diversity Mural. Their message encouraged eligible non-profits to apply for one \$5,000 grant per fiscal year (July 1-June 30) provided they have no past due or unapproved Final Reports.

Commissioner Vanoosbree commented she will follow-up with Peng Olson about a suggested tile art display. An artist prepared a tiled sculpture for the City of Winona, and this might be a project that would promote Owatonna's rebranding. Project cost would depend on the size and type of display (mobile or permanent) prepared. Commissioner Vanoosbree will provide additional project information during the February OHRC Meeting and contact AGE about participating. She requested co-sponsorship be a future agenda item for discussion of partnership responsibilities during events for discussion when planning events? She asked 2024 Welcome Week Activities also be on the next meeting agenda and asked everyone be prepared to propose events so plans can be made. Terms of current OHRC commissioners Vanoosbree, Emanuelson and Cord expire at the end of April, and are not eligible for reappointment as they have all served the maximum number of terms allowed within the City's Code of Ordinances. Anticipating new commission members will appreciate having plans in place for this annual September activity.

ITEMS of DISCUSSION

2024 MLK Jr. Day Event – January 15, 2024

Commissioners Emanuelson and Cords distributed 50+ event flyers over the last several weeks. Commissioner Mustafe commented he dropped flyers at the mosque and several work locations. Commissioner Emanuelson prepared a spreadsheet or map to track where flyers were left and will be asked to share this for use during future events.

Administrative Coordinator Clawson will use OHRC Chamber Bucks towards the purchase of cookies and water. She will bring OHRC pamphlets, event surveys and pens to this event next Monday.

Commissioner Gunderson will stop at the History Center tomorrow for their venue use agreement and will review table/chair placement planned. During their previous discussion, nine round tables to seat 72 were requested with more available if needed. Currently, 42 reservations have been made on Eventbrite, this number does not include OHRC members. Commissioners hope this number will increase to a group of 120, Commissioner Vanoosbree commented during the September OHRC Meeting, the event's meal expense was authorized; she made a motion authorizing cost for an additional 20 meals if needed. Commissioner Leon seconded the motion, all members present voted aye for approval. Commissioner Cords will contact Plaza Morena with the number of reservations on Friday.

Event information is currently posted on the City's Facebook account, the City's website, and article in the City's newsletter. An article was published in last Friday's edition of the Owatonna Peoples Press and OPU's January newsletter. Commissioner Gunderson hopes to be on the radio this week to promote this as a family event with good food, pre-station and discussion and encourage pre-registration on Eventbrite. Commissioner Vanoosbree asked him to avoid comments about MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech but mention MLK's beliefs and values. Dr. King advocated for civil rights, social justice and nonviolence based on his beliefs and values on the principles of civil disobedience, equality, liberty, racial pride, pacifism, social commitment, faith, spirituality, and love. He challenged the racial and economic oppression in America by the power of love.

Commissioner Vanoosbree will contact Seema Pothini, event speaker, to review her presentation details. If group discussion is needed, a ZOOM call will be held later this week.

Doors will open to the public at 11:30 am, OHRC Members should be available to welcome their guests. Anticipating the event will end at 1:00 pm or shortly after, OHRC Members will assist with clean-up if needed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:15 p.m., Commissioner Leon made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Gunderson seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Charles S. Crandall Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Coordinator