

## **Owatonna Human Rights Commission Minutes**

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission (OHRC) met on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in the Meeting Room of the Charles S. Crandall Center. Chairman Commissioner Cords called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Commissioner Vanoosbree took roll call with Commissioners Cords, Esquivel, Leon, Emanuelson, Gunderson and Vanoosbree, City Administrator Busse and Administrative Coordinator Clawson present. Commissioner Ismael was unable to attend.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Cords welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner Vanoosbree made a motion to approve the agenda as prepared, Commissioner Leon seconded the motion, all members present voted aye for approval. After reviewing the Minutes of the March 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Commissioner Gunderson made a motion for approval, Commissioner Vanoosbree seconded the motion, all members present voted aye for approval.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Cords reminded everyone of the OHRC booth planned at the Project Community Connect Resource Expo on April 25<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Lutheran Church. Commissioners Cord, Mustafe and Vanoosbree plan to attend this event to distribute OHRC flyers and brochures. Commissioner Vanoosbree commented she will bring the poster board to this event.

Commissioner Vanoosbree commented that the Alliance for Greater Equity (AGE) will host a Cinco DeMayo event in Central Park on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be food trucks, games and music offered, and they are looking for volunteers to help. The event is planned from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Clawson commented this will be a busy day in Owatonna, other activities include Corky's Earlybird Softball Tournament, the Farmer's Market and From the Heart & Soul 5k and fun run.

### **ITEMS of DISCUSSION**

#### **OHRC ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024 Welcome Week**

The 2023 OHRC Annual Report prepared by Commissioner Cords was presented. Commissioners Cords and Gunderson will provide an update on OHRC activities during the Study Session on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The annual report will serve as an outline for their presentation. This will offer an opportunity to promote the Human Library offered last fall during Welcome Week and the MLK Jr. Day event in January. Commissioner Vanoosbree commented that to spread out OHRC activities during the year, the Human Library could be offered as a stand-alone event. The book (subject matter) participation was good and community awareness could expand if this was a separate event.

Commissioner Gunderson asked current OHRC members Emanuelson, Vanoosbree and Cords to be present during the May 21<sup>st</sup> City Council Meeting. Mayor Kuntz will acknowledge former board/commission members for their years of service during this meeting. Over the last several years, OHRC has changed from being a reactive to a proactive commission with service from these commissioner members.

**2024 Welcome Week**

The sub-committee will meet prior to the next OHRC meeting to expand plans for the 2024 Welcome Week. Current consideration to host a soccer game at Grace Baptist on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner Gunderson will verify field availability with the church. Commissioner Vanoosbree commented that offering food will encourage participation and suggested considering contacting a food truck.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:20 p.m., Commissioner Gunderson made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Emanuelson seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Charles S. Crandall Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Coordinator