

Owatonna Human Rights Commission

Minutes – January 14, 2025

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission (OHRC) met on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, in the Meeting Room of the Charles S. Crandall Center. Chairman Jim Gunderson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Commissioner Hansen took roll call: Commissioners Jim Gunderson, Julia Seykora, Jessica Bjore, Edgar Esquivel, Jennifer Hansen, and Administrative Coordinator Clawson. Commission Members Sherry Hill and Mustafe Ismael were unable to attend.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Gunderson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner Hansen made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Commissioner Seykora seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

After review of Minutes of the last meeting, December 10, 2025, Commissioner Bjore made a motion to approve as presented, Commissioner Hansen seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

ITEM OF DISCUSSION - 2025 MLK Jr Day Event Monday, January 20, 2025

There was a brief review of plans for the 2025 MLK Jr Day event:

Venue – Steele County History Center – Commissioners Gunderson and Seykora will complete site tour prior to the event to verify AV equipment, want to confirm microphones and speaker system.

Speaker – Seema Pothini – Commissioner Seykora confirmed all set, and she will do the speaker introduction. Introduction will include why OHRC believes it is important for her to speak again this year. 2024 was to recognize the value of your strengths and this year will be to become an ally.

Caterer: Plaza Morena Campestre Grill will begin set up at 11:30 a.m., Jose's son will be onsite to provide the beef and chicken taco bar.

Co-Sponsors: Rainbowatonna – have received \$100 co-sponsorship payment

AGE – Commissioner Seykora will follow-up

Riverland Community College – Commissioner Gunderson will follow-up

Everyone asked to promote the event over the next few days. Currently, 29 pre-registered and anticipate will be over 100 within the week. OHRC Commissioners are reminded to wear OHRC shirt and nametags during the event. The OHRC Brochure and member cards will also be available.

ITEM OF DISCUSSION – 2025 OHRC Activities

Commissioners asked to mark their calendars for these 2025 activities with OHRC participation.

Additional information/discussion will be held during the February OHRC Meeting.

- 1) February 11th – OCLA Cultural & Diversity at the Library after lunch. Commissioners Gunderson, Bjore and Hansen plan to attend.
- 2) April 30th - Owatonna Community Connect at Four Seasons – will receive information from Ellie at the Community Bank.
- 3) Downtown Thursdays – first Thursday of each month – June to September.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:33 p.m., Commissioner Hansen made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Esquivel seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned. The next OHRC Meeting is planned for Tuesday, February 11th at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Coordinator