

Owatonna Human Rights Commission Minutes – May 13, 2025

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission (OHRC) met on Tuesday, May 8, 2025, in the Meeting Room of the Charles S. Crandall Center. Vice Chairman Bjore called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Commissioner Hansen took a roll call, present were Commission Members Bjore, Esquivel, Hansen, Hult, Ismael and Seykora; Assistant City Administrator Tuma, City Council Member McCann; City Administrator Busse and Administrative Coordinator Clawson. Commissioner Bjore commented that Commissioner Hill is excused from tonight's meeting.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Vice-Chairman Bjore welcomed new member Josiah Hult to the meeting. Council Members approved Hult's appointment to the OHRC during their May 6, 2025 Meeting and Mayor Jessop also administered his Oath of Office. After review and a few minor changes, Commissioner Hansen made a motion to approve the Minutes of the April OHRC Minutes, Commissioner Ismael seconded the motion, and all members present voted aye in approval.

ITEM OF DISCUSSION – 2025 OHRC Activities

- 1) Community Connect – April 30th - Commissioner Hansen commented Deb Lacroix, Adult Health Nurse Practitioner in Minneapolis left her business card and asked if OHRC members needed training for crisis management. During their conversation, she suggested she should contact the LEC or Steele County Sheriff's Offices. Commissioner Ismael commented that Ms. Lacroix asked him if Owatonna offered an 811 Mental Health Crisis Line. City Administrator Busse commented she would review information with Chief Mundale.

Commissioner Bjore commented requests received for Spanish and Somali versions of the OHRC Brochure. Commissioner Ismael commented he is a certified Somali Translator and could assist. Assistant City Administrator Tuma offered to review translation options for the brochure. Bjore requested brochure stands be purchased to better display the brochure when attending an event and requested white duct tape to secure the OHRC banner and a tablecloth. Busse commented that the city purchased a tablecloth last year with the city's new brand, will review availability of this tablecloth and purchase price to discuss at the June OHRC Meeting.

Commissioner Ismael commented he heard several attending the event unaware of the OHRC activities and requested an OHRC Facebook account. Commissioners Seykora and Bjore requested OHRC information post each week. City Administrator Busse commented the city is hesitant to establish individual Facebook accounts for commission use and encouraged the commissioners to prepare posts to share with staff to post. Commissioner Seykora asked if information was posted regarding the \$500 donation the OHRC recently received from the Hometown Credit Union. Assistant City Administrator Tuma commented she will meet with city's Communication Manager, Deanna Sheely about these requests.

Commissioner Mustafe commented he could direct requests from OHRC members to staff to post.

- 2) Annual Election of Officers – Commissioner Hansen nominated Commissioner Bjore for position of OHRC Chairman, Commissioner Seykora seconded the motion and Commissioner Bjore accepted the nomination. With no additional nominations heard, a vote was called for and all members present voted aye with approval.

Commissioner Hansen nominated Commissioner Seykora for position of OHRC Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Bjore seconded the motion and Commissioner Seykora accepted the nomination. With no additional nominations heard, a vote was called for and all members present voted aye with approval.

Commissioner Hansen nominated Commissioner Ismael to serve as the OHRC Secretary, Commissioner Bjore seconded the motion and Commissioner Ismael accepted the nomination. With no additional nominations heard, a vote was called for and all members present voted aye with approval.

Commissioner Hansen

- 3) 2025 Welcome Week – September 2025

Commissioner Hansen commented she has registered the OHRC to participate in the September Downtown Thursday on September 4, 2025. She requested space in the 100 block of N Cedar Avenue.

Meeting on the Field – Soccer Game on Saturday, September 6th at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Seykora commented family participation should be encouraged. Commissioner Hult suggested setting out kids games and Council Member McCann suggested requesting the city's Rec on the Go Trailer. Commissioner Hansen commented that she will contact the Owatonna Soccer Association and submit a City Event Permit for use of the Daiken Soccer Fields and the city's Rec on the Go Trailer. Commissioner Seykora commented that snacks and water went over well during the game last year and suggested additional snacks be offered and not contract a food vendor, only a few ordered meals at last year's game. Commissioner Seykora will get snacks and Commissioner Bjore offered to get water and order t-shirts, red and blue teams with white lettering, when participant's shirt sizes are known.

City Council Member McCann suggested offering a movie after the soccer game to increase family participation. Commissioner Bjore suggested another day should be considered for a movie, the evening will be packed with the soccer game. City Administrator Busse will review movie rental options and fees with Park & Rec staff.

- 4) Downtown Thursday Event (DTE) – Commissioner Hansen commented she registered the OHRC for the September 4th Downtown Thursday event. She shared listing of potential books for the Human Library and asked commissioners to review and suggest additional books. She anticipates filming participated in July and create individual posters. Clawson commented she will review process of use of QR codes on the posters with city staff. Commissioner Seykora asked Commissioner Hansen if she needed assistance with this project, Commissioner Hansen stated she would welcome help with filming the book presentations and commissioners agreed to assist with preparation of this project.

Commissioner's Comments:

Commissioner Seykora requested additional OHRC business cards, Clawson will follow-up on business cards for all OHRC members and OHRC name badges will be ordered for Commissioners Mustafe, Ismael and Hult. Seykora presented invoice for treats offered during Community Connect, \$34.23. Commissioner Hansen made a motion to reimburse Commissioner Seykora for this expense, Commissioner Ismael seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

Chairman Bjore thanked everyone for attending and new member Hult for joining the OHRC. City Administrator Busse took pictures of the new officers to share with communications staff

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:37 p.m., Commissioner Seykora made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Esquivel seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned. The next OHRC Meeting is planned for Tuesday, June 10th at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Coordinator