

Owatonna Human Rights Commission Minutes

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission (OHRC) met on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, in the Meeting Room of the Charles S. Crandall Center. Chairman Jim Gunderson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Commissioner Hansen took roll call; Commissioners Jim Gunderson, Jessica Bjore, Edgar Esquivel, Brandy Leon, Jennifer Hansen and Julia Seykora, City Administrator Busse and Administrative Coordinator Clawson were present. Commissioner Mustafe Ismael was unable to attend.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Gunderson welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to review Minutes of the June 11, 2024, OHRC Meeting. Commissioner Hansen made a motion to approve these minutes as presented, Commissioner Leon seconded the motion, and all members present voted aye for approval.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Leon presented a letter of resignation; she has accepted a new employment opportunity and is unable to attend future OHRC Meetings. Chairman Gunderson thanked her for serving as an OHRC Commissioner during the last two years which has been greatly appreciated by the OHRC members and the community. An application will be posted for a new member to fulfill the remainder of her current term which ends April 30, 2025.

Commissioner Bjore commented she hopes the OHRC can consider a mural project at the new community center being proposed. City Administrator Busse commented that the city is just beginning to discuss a community center project, but this would take several years in the process. Commissioner Gunderson commented the former Mayo Clinic (near Fareway Foods) is the Oakhill Community Connections Project, a collaborative space designed to house non-profit human service agencies and organizations to provide emotional, financial, and spiritual support to those in need. He will inquire if there would be an opportunity for an OHRC office or mural.

ITEMS of DISCUSSION

2024 Welcome Week

Commissioner Hansen commented that the OHRC Human Library will be held during the September Downtown Thursday event on September 5th. She has the list of previous participants in the Human Library and the questions they were asked. The price quoted to print 200 bingo cards (8.5"x5.5") with display of the Human Library Participant's information/pictures is \$126. Additional plans will be shared during the next OHRC meeting.

Commissioner Gunderson confirmed Daiken Soccer Field has been reserved for the OHRC soccer game on Saturday, September 7th at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Seykora commented the event will begin earlier with food truck on site, she contacted Lupe with El Ray Taco and will

arrange a follow-up meeting to review pricing options and food quantity requirements; Commissioners Gunderson and Esquivel will also be invited to attend this meeting with Lupe.

Commissioner Bjore displayed price quotes received for Welcome Week event trinkets and game shirts. The event sub-committee will design T-shirts for two 12-player soccer teams, pre-registration will be required to process the t-shirt order. Commissioner Esquivel commented players would prefer food credit over a trinket and everyone agreed. Commissioner Hansen will create a google registration form and food voucher/coupon for game participants. Event details will be finalized during the next OHRC Meeting to allow several weeks to publicize these two Welcome Week activities.

2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Event

Commissioner Gunderson will follow-up with the History Center about use of audio equipment and confirm the maximum seating capacity. He will ask for food tables to be set in the hallway or the small adjoining room to allow more seating in the large room. Also, ask if they have long rectangular tables so not use the round tables which take up more space. Commissioner Gunderson will contact Riverland Community College about co-sponsoring the 2025 and Commissioner Hansen commented she will also pursue additional sponsorships for the MLK Jr. Day event.

Additional plans include:

- 1) a contract with event speaker, Seema Pothini, was approved by the City Council during their last meeting.
- 2) Commissioner Gunderson has contacted Plaza Morena for a price quote for meals.
- 3) Water and cookies will also be provided
- 4) Commissioner Hansen will prepare a Google pre-registration form.
- 5) Publicity will be prepared and distributed during December/January prior to the event.

ADJOURNMENT

City Administrator Busse commented the August OHRC Meeting date/time will need to be changed; Tuesday, August 13th is Minnesota's 2024 Primary Election Day and public meetings are not allowed between 6:00 and 8:00 pm. OHRC Commissioners agreed to meet on Tuesday, July 30th at 5:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Charles S. Crandall Center.

At 6:42 p.m., Commissioner Esquivel made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Leon seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Coordinator