

Owatonna Human Rights Commission Minutes

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission (OHRC) met Tuesday, July 30, 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, Jennifer Hansen, and Mustafe Ismael; City Administrator Busse and Administrative Coordinator Clawson were present. Commissioner Julia Seykora was unable to attend.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Gunderson welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting agenda was accepted as prepared and everyone was asked to review Minutes of the July 9, 2024, OHRC Meeting. Commissioner Bjore made a motion for approval as presented, Commissioner Hansen seconded the motion, and all members present voted aye for approval.

ITEMS of DISCUSSION

2024 Welcome Week

Soccer Game – Commissioners reviewed plans for the “Meeting on the Field” planned for Saturday, September 7th at Daiken Field. The field has been reserved and an Event Permit filed to allow for a food truck within the park. El Ray Taco will be available beginning at 5:30 pm, Commissioner Hansen prepared \$5 Participant Vouchers towards a food purchase. The game will consist of two 45-minute halves beginning at 6:30 pm. Commissioner Ismael will arrange for referees. Each participant will receive a team shirt, red or blue, with “Welcome Week, Meeting on the Field” printed on the front in white and “Owatonna Human Rights Commission and their number” on the back. Participants must register by August 9th so shirts can be ordered in their requested sizes.

Human Library – OHRC will use the city’s participant site during the September Downtown event on September 5th. City Administrator Busse commented the city’s event items can be used including a tent, tables, chairs, wagon, and display banners. Commissioner Hansen commented current expense for the Human Library is \$426; \$300 Chamber Bucks for prizes and \$126 to print the “Bingo” cards. Twelve participants are confirmed and several more pending. All commissioners were asked to contact additional participants to offer a wider variety of books. Participant information can be sent to those interested.

Everyone was encouraged to promote these 2024 Welcome Week activities. Commissioners Gunderson, Seykora and Bjore will arrange time with KOWZ radio for promotion during the last week of August. City Administrator Busse will confirm the city’s next Straight Talk session for Commissioners Ismael, Gunderson and Bjore to participate. New Flashes on the city’s website, Facebook, and Event Calendar and the Chamber’s website also will be used.

2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Event

Commissioners Gunderson and Hansen recently met with staff at the History Center. Thirteen round tables will be set with 10 chairs each to offer seating for 130 attendees and food will be set on tables in the hallway. A brief review of plans included:

- 1) Contract is approved for event speaker, Seema Pothini.
- 2) Commissioner Gunderson will contact Plaza Morena for price quote on cost of 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

Commissioners wished to meet prior to the regular September meeting to review plans for the 2024 Welcome Week. A special meeting will be held on Monday, August 26th at 5:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Charles S. Crandall Center.

At 6:37 p.m., Commissioner Esquivel made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Bjore seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Coordinator