

**City of Moorhead  
Human Rights Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
December 20, 2011 at 6:00 PM  
City Hall Council Chambers**

**Call to order – 6:00 PM**

**Roll call**

Board Member:	Bibhusha Karki	Present
Board Member:	Dennis Medd	Present
Board Member:	Heidi Uecker	Present
Board Member:	Kris Kerzman	Present
Board Member:	Michael Carbone	Present
Board Member:	Nate Aalgaard	Present
Board Member:	Octavio Gomez	Present
2nd Ward Council Member:	Mark Altenburg	Absent
Board Member:	Fatima Amedi	Absent
Board Member:	Lyndi Williams	Absent
Board Member:	Selvin Nygard	Absent

**Approval of Agenda/Minutes**

Minutes: Would like to add discussion of the Human Rights Award to the agenda.

**Motion made to approve addition to the agenda made by Aalgaard and second by Kerzman.**

*For: 7 - Bibhusha Karki, Octavio Gomez, Heidi Uecker, Dennis Medd, Kris Kerzman, Michael Carbone, Nate Aalgaard*

*Against: 0 - (None)*

*Abstain: 0 - (None)*

*Absent: 4 - Lyndi Williams, Fatima Amedi, Selvin Nygard, Mark Altenburg*

*Recused: 0 - (None)*

Minutes: Correction: at-large member Octavio Gomez was present at November meeting.

**Motion made to approve correction of the November minutes made by Karki and second by Gomez.**

*For: 7 - Bibhusha Karki, Octavio Gomez, Heidi Uecker, Dennis Medd, Kris Kerzman, Michael Carbone, Nate Aalgaard*

*Against: 0 - (None)*

*Abstain: 0 - (None)*

*Absent: 4 - Lyndi Williams, Fatima Amedi, Selvin Nygard, Mark Altenburg*

*Recused: 0 - (None)*

**Citizens to be heard**

Minutes: Human Rights complaint in the form of a confidential letter was addressed in executive session by the Commission.

## Reports

- Minutes: **Presentation: Cindy Gomez-Schempp, Editor of the High Plains Reader - Status of Immigrant Rights in the Community**  
Media is influencing major change in the world because we can all access information so much faster. The shifts are creating a swell of response from people about events all over the world. People need to dig beneath the surface of what they initially see in the media and take responsibility to emulate change. She stated, with examples, that there is still a lot of hidden and institutionalized racism in the foundation of our government, education, media, and daily lives.
- Minutes: **Budget & Outreach/Education Groups:**  
Discussed creating a handbook of information to provide to members of the MHRC. The issue is that the materials must be printed and the invoice must be received by January 13 to use the 2011 budget. The project is probable to complete, but will need help from other commissioners. Kerzman will send out the current outline to get input from others.
- Minutes: **Orientation Group & Training with Dr. Conteh:**  
Tentatively set for January 21, from 10:00 AM -2:00 PM.
- Minutes: **Human Rights Awareness Day:**  
The day came and went with no focus from the Commission. It would be nice to put together a calendar of important dates so events don't sneak up on the Commission. An e-mail will be sent out to all commissioners to seek volunteers.
- Minutes: **Human Rights Award:**  
It is time to begin accepting nominations for the 2012 Human Rights Award Recipient. It would be nice to get these nominations in by Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The online form needs some editing to bring it up-to-date. Commissioners should make nominations as well as let other know we are accepting nominations.

## Upcoming events

- Minutes: **Human Rights Training with Dr. Conteh:**  
Tentatively set for January 21, from 10:00 AM -2:00 PM.

## New business

- Minutes: **Poverty Simulation:**  
First looking for a venue to donate the space. Major cost will include paying a small stipend to volunteers. The first step will be to contact the Fargo Human Relations Committee to see if they would like to partner with the MHRC to make this event happen. Carbone will also be in contact with the city.

## **Adjournment – 7:28 PM**

### **Motion made to adjourn the meeting made by Kerzman and second by Gomez.**

*For: 7 - Bibhusha Karki, Octavio Gomez, Heidi Uecker, Dennis Medd, Kris Kerzman, Michael Carbone, Nate Aalgaard*

*Against: 0 - (None)*

*Abstain: 0 - (None)*

*Absent: 4 - Lyndi Williams, Fatima Amedi, Selvin Nygard, Mark Altenburg*

*Recused: 0 - (None)*