

**City of Moorhead
Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2011 at 6:00 PM
City Hall Council Chambers**

[Call to order](#) – 6:00 PM

[Roll call](#)

Roll call of the members was made as follows:

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

[Approval of Agenda/Minutes](#)

Minutes: Carbone would like to add to the agenda under Upcoming Activities a meeting tomorrow morning with the Fargo Human Relations Commission.

Motion made to approve November agenda and October minutes made by Kerzman and seconded by Altenburg.

Motion Passed

For: 6 - Bibhusha Karki, Lyndi Williams, Kris Kerzman, Michael Carbone, Nate Aalgaard, Mark Altenburg

Against: 0 - (None)

Abstain: 0 - (None)

Absent: 5 - Heidi Uecker, Octavio Gomez, Dennis Medd, Fatima Amedi, Selvin Nygard

Recused: 0 - (None)

Minutes: Altenburg noted that the minutes should reflect Altenburg's name in replacement of Boedekker. Gomez Second.

Kerzman motion to approve corrected minutes. Karki second.

[Citizens to be heard](#)

Minutes: None.

[Reports](#)

Minutes: **Presentation: Josh Boschee** - Status of GLBT community in Moorhead
Mr. Boschee states that the FM community is probably a safer place for GLBT members than other areas of ND and MN, however, it is not perfect. He reported especially on bullying and harassment of young GLBT people in the school systems. He is proud to report on 1st meeting of a Youth GLBT support group in the FM community. Will likely see an increase in the GLBT population in FM. Clay County currently ranks 13 out of the top 15 in MN with couples that identify themselves as a same-sex couple. Employment and housing discrimination was discussed.

- Minutes: **Budget Group:**
At last night's City Council meeting, the MHRC budget was increased from \$2,000 to \$3,400, which will cover \$1,400 in city staff representation.
- Minutes: **Orientation Group:**
Human Rights Training with Dr. Conteh - 21st of January with a back-up date of the 28th at MSU-M or the city Library.
- Minutes: **Pangaea:**
Del Rae Williams spoke about the Pangaea event which was held last Saturday, November 12, 2011. 1,500 people attended the event. The commission is supportive Pangaea and would like to participate in the 2012 event.
- Minutes: **Outreach / Education Group:**
Commissioners Karki and Kerzman put together a proposal for educational materials regarding general human rights, Minnesota human rights laws, access to the Moorhead HRC, community contact information. Material will be ready for Chairman Carbone's meeting with City representative Lisa Vatsdal. It would be nice to use the 2011 budget to pay for these materials.
- Minutes: **Diversity Conference:**
The Diversity Conference was held at MSU-M on November 9th. It was stated that the conference was well-worth attending.

Upcoming events

- Minutes: **Human Rights Training with Dr. Conteh:**
See "Orientation Group" notes above.

New business

- Minutes: **Poverty Simulation:**
Needs 40-80 participants and 10+ volunteers for a simulation on what it is like to live in poverty. This could be a wonderful learning experience for the commissioners and community as a whole. This simulation was developed by the State of Missouri Community Action. It was discussed that the volunteers could potentially come from the local colleges. Participants will include bankers, lawyers, accountants, educators, and other professionals. This event will help people understand the feeling of poverty in the community. Could work with the Fargo Human Rights Commission, United Way of Cass-Clay, FM Area Foundation, Dakota Medical Foundation to put together this simulation. Discussion of trying to get this event put together for March 2012.
- Minutes: **FM Human Rights:**
Nate Bailly from the Fargo Human Rights Commission would like to convene a study committee to evaluate human rights in the FM community. First meeting will be Wednesday, November 16, 2011. 9:00 AM in the River room Fargo City Hall. Commissioners Altenburg and Gomez will attend.

Adjournment – 7:20 PM