



**City of Moorhead
Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2020 – 5:00PM
Online format via Webex**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Human Rights Commission was held in the City Hall Council Chambers and online via Webex on August 19, 2020, at 5:00 PM.

1. Call to order The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm.

2. Roll call

Roll Call of the members was made as follows:

Board Member:

Board Member: Cani Adan Present

3rd Ward Council Member: Deb White Present

Board Member: Shinwar Mayi Present

Board Member: MaKell Pauling Normandin Present

Board Member: Ilene Cohen-Pearson Present

Board Member: Heather Keeler Present

3. Approval of Agenda/Minutes

The agenda and minutes were approved with a motion made by Heather Keeler, seconded by Deb White, and passed by unanimous consent.

4. Citizens to be heard

Faith Dixon spoke with the Commission about a recent incident involving the police department. Commissioners asked questions and discussed.

5. Law Enforcement Update – Sgt. Martin

Sgt. Martin shared information about an upcoming virtual diversity job fair and an upcoming meeting to discuss diversity in the workplace.

6. Juneteenth Discussion

Guest speaker was unable to attend. Commissioners discussed the origin and the importance of Juneteenth.

A. City Council Presentation of Recommendation

The Commission decided to present their recommendation to the City Council on 9-14-2020. Cani and Heather will present the recommendation to the City Council. Heather may invite a community member to join them in the presentation.

7. Payday Loan Update – Council Member Durand

Council Member Durand shared a draft resolution of an ordinance to set limits on payday loans. Commissioners asked questions and discussed. Sgt. Martin suggested the possibility of adding language to prevent lenders from taking advantage of limits by creating separate entities to offer additional loans. Commissioner Durand suggested that maybe limiting the number of licenses that the City issues might address that concern.

The Commission approved a motion put forward by Heather Keeler to support a payday loan ordinance with the inclusion of Sgt. Martin's suggestion. Deb White seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous consent.

8. COVID Updates

Cani Adan shared information on a New American partnership that is working to fight the spread of COVID.

Heather Keeler shared information on the City's CARES Business Grant program.

9. Commission Membership Diversity Discussion

Commissioners discussed Willard Yellow Bird's retirement and resignation from the Commission. They expressed their appreciation for Willard's years of service.

Commissioners discussed the current open seat on the commission. They would like to have a minor aged 12-18 appointed to the Commission. They encourage minor applicants to apply with the City.

10. New American Businesses

Commissioners encouraged businesses to apply for the City's CARES Business Grant program.

11. Reports/Announcements/Upcoming Events

Heather Keeler discussed the Spuds Academy

Deb White discussed a series of talks she is giving virtually regarding the 19th Amendment.

12. New Business

Commissioners requested two new items for the next meeting's agenda.

1. 2021 Annual Planning
2. Drop-off ballot locations

The meeting adjourned at 6:09pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joshua Huffman, HRC Staff Liaison

The proceedings of this meeting are digitally recorded and are available for public review.