



WEST DES MOINES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 28, 2019

Commissioners Present: Sanjita Pradhan, Dr. Rich Salas, Lonnette Dafney, Heather Schott, Mindy Begenat, Mark Hillenbrand

Commissioners Absent with notice: Bernell Edwards

Staff Representative: Laura Reveles

Council Liaison: Councilwoman Renee Hardman, absent

Guests: Tom Hadden, Alex Carl

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 4:41 p.m.

2. **Roll call**

3. **Approval of February 2019 Minutes**

Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand motioned to approve, Commissioner Mindy Begenat seconded, minutes approved

4. **Opportunity for public to address the Commission**

5. **Staff report**

- Staff liaison for the Commission Laura Reveles covered the following topics:
 - Phone Line: No messages
 - Budget: handed out current fiscal year budget
 - Discussed the remaining budget for the Commission and to think of ideas
 - Think of marketing materials, business cards, offline conversation on what to have then discuss at the next meeting
 - DSM Civil and Human Rights Symposium: 12 City Staff Attended
 - The LOSST measure passed and the City will be moving forward with the proposed initiatives
 - One Iowa Happy Hour Update: City staff attended this update and will continue to help coordinate and host quarterly in West Des Moines. This event compliments the Quarterly Coffee Update hosted in Des Moines.
 - Will be attending a couple conferences in the middle of April and will be back the Friday before the next Human Rights meeting.
- Update from City Manager, Tom Hadden:
 - City Manager Tom Hadden, gave an update on the RecPlex and successful funding, the current legislature and property tax bill, as well as stated that he can help arrange to bring any department or member to the meetings if there is interest in a certain topic for representation.
- Commission Chair Sanjita Pradhan stated that in future meetings we will schedule city staff to attend the meetings from each department to build relationships.

6. **Report from Commissioners on recent activities–**

- Commissioner Heather Schott talked about the great turnout for Wade Davis. He went to Roosevelt High School, and 13 students from WDM attended, and he spoke to all the sponsors and at Drake.

- Commission Chair Sanjita Pradhan discussed how WDM needs its own event. When Deepa Iyer came to DSM we invited her to WDM and we filled the room. It would be great to piggy back off DSM events. We can add great value to our city. If we collaborate we can bring in speakers
- Commissioner Dr. Rich Salas stated that Sanjita was a speaker at DMU for the lunch series and she had a very impressive speech.

7. Chair report: Commission Chair Sanjita Pradhan- switch with #7

- She will be gone in May and June there is no formal vice chair to lead the meetings when the chair is gone. Please respond to Laura and Sanjita if you want to be an alternate

8. Old business

9. New business

- Tom Hadden mentioned that they could bring in a speaker and pay in advance.
- The commission motioned and approved to sponsor half of a table at the Multicultural dinner with special guest Simon Estes.
 - Commissioner Dr. Rich Salas motioned to approve, Commissioner Heather Schott seconded.

10. Next meeting date April 24, 2019, 4:30 – 6:00pm

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:14pm.

Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand moved to adjourn, Commissioner Heather Schott seconded

Minutes by: Laura Reveles