



WEST DES MOINES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 8, 2019

Commissioners Present: Sanjita Pradhan, Heather Schott, Mark Hillenbrand, Mindy Begenat,
Commissioners Absent with notice: Lonnette Dafney, Bernell Edwards, Dr. Rich Salas
Staff Representative: Laura Reveles
Council Liaison: Councilwoman Renee Hardman, absent
Guests: Tom Hadden, Teva Dawson

1. Call to order: Meeting called to order at 4:47 p.m.

2. Roll call

3. Approval of June 2019 Minutes

Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand motioned to approve, Commissioner Heather Schott seconded, minutes approved

4. Opportunity for public to address the Commission

None

5. Staff report

- Staff liaison for the Commission Laura Reveles covered the following topics:
 - Phone Line: No messages
 - Budget Update
 - Sponsorship thank you from 2019 Des Moines World Refugee Day
 - Sponsorship for Taste of the Junction
 - Rachele Long stated our sponsorship entitles us to a VIP tent as well as displaying space for Human Rights Commission activities. She will send us a map when it gets closer to the date. The event is Labor Day weekend, Saturday Aug. 31.
 - GARE Convening on September 17th from 8:30 – 3pm
 - Confirmed attendance by members of the Commission
 - Discussion on the agenda and high level overview of racial equity and local government
 - Iowa Leagues of Human Rights Agencies will host their Annual League meeting on October 17, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in Dubuque, and then plan to stay for a community tour from 2-4 p.m., followed by the Race in the Heartland conference on October 18 and 19! Learn more and register for Race in the Heartland here: <https://raceintheheartland.org/>.
 - Requested updated Contact Information

6. Report from Commissioners on recent activities

- Commissioner Mindy Begenet attended the walkability workshop, 2 days. There was a good mix of community representation and city staff. Very positive with the event and the perspectives and brought along a visually impaired person to assist

in the viewpoint. The commission would like to see the results of the workshop when they are available.

- Commissioner Heather Schott, attended NASDAQ LGBTQ Leadership Summit. On August 26, will attend the society of actuaries meeting to plan a session on non-binary people in the workplace.
- Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand, equity conversations 2018/2019 ended for the year. Last meeting was well attended and discussed racial equity. We will kick it off again in October for the 2019/2020

7. Chair report: Commission Chair Sanjita Pradhan

- No updates

8. Old business

- Speaker Jay Pryor, October 8th-10th
 - Commissioner Heather Schott shared that we missed the opportunity to collaborate with hosting this speaker at this time. This speaker will be at the Women Lead Change conference in October.

9. New business

- GARE Convening funding
 - The cost of the workshop is \$10,800.00 divided between the City of West Des Moines and Des Moines.
 - Commissioner Heather Schott motioned to share half of the total costs with the City, Commissioner Mindy Begenat seconded the motion.

10. Next meeting date September 12 , 2019 4:30pm – 6:00pm

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:31pm.

Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand moved to adjourn, Commissioner Heather Schott seconded

Minutes by: Laura Reveles