# West Des Moines Human Rights Commission Thursday, December 14, 2023

**Minutes**

1. Roll call
   1. Commissioner Berkenes - PRESENT
   2. Commissioner Cole-Duvall - PRESENT
   3. Commissioner Crosser - PRESENT
   4. Commissioner Morgan – ZOOM
   5. Commissioner Zanders ZOOM
   6. Commissioner Jacobs - PRESENT
   7. Commissioner Kakkanad – PRESENT (arrived 5:13)
   8. Commissioner Rajkumar Sudhakar (Youth Ex-officio) - PRESENT
2. Approval of November 2023 meeting minutes
   1. Crosser motioned to approve the November 2023 minutes. Seconded by Jacobs
3. Opportunity for public to address the Commission (5min per Community member)
   1. Chief of Police Chris Scott honored Milton Cole with an award honorary community award City WDM Pd oct. 25 2023
4. Presenter: No report
5. Budget Update: current budget is $8,444.11 leaving 4,000 for MLK Jr Day in January 2023
6. New business:
   1. Commission Gathering
      * Commission is looking at a retreat for May or 2024 (doodle poll) expanding a 2nd Thursday after an HRC meeting.
   2. MLK Jr. Day Planning – update
      * Planning is going well – mark your calendars for Jan 15. Start packaging at Meals from the Heartland (8am - 3:30p) and then moving the event to RecPlex Celebration (3p 5p). Commissioner Crosser stated wearing HRC shirts with a quote of MLK & will get those ordered (20)
      * MLK Jr. Flyer – partnership will put the communication out next week. An announcement will be sent out shortly by Amplimark & social media outlets.
      * Meals from the Heartland Volunteering – looking into having youth come and support/serve from the schools & the impact of history.
   3. Meeting w/ Des Moines HRC
      * Commissioner Erlin & Pierce had a connect subcommittee meeting. 1. Connecting with DM HRC meeting with Chris on Dec. 21 and collaborate and connect.
7. Old Business – No report
8. Staff Report – Audrey announced she will be as of July 1, 2024, assuming the role of Human Services & DEI which will incorporate HRC. Office location is at Human Services. DEI sponsored $1,200.00 to Iowa Safe Schools which includes a table and HRC sponsored CanPlay for $1,000. Aaron updated the commissioners 704 followers on Instagram and January spotlight will be Erlin for the Newsletter.
9. Council Report – No report
10. Commissioner’s and Sub Committee Report
    1. Commissioner Cole-Duvall & Commissioner Jacobs (Education Sub Committee)
       * Jacobs stated the youth symposium has made progress. Jacobs will be starting a non-profit that will host the entire youth symposium in 2024 & a leadership camp that focuses on youth leadership and their voice.
       * Cole-Duvall stated he helped served with 65 other citizens.
    2. Commissioner Morgan & Commissioner Crosser (Engage Sub Committee)
       * Crosser gave an update on the inclusion summit for 2023. Working on a calendar for 2024 regarding local events and the pop-up banner. Would like to receive the ICRC report for the current year.
       * Morgan stated he’s communicating with Rich to plan a March 31 Cesar Chavez day event. Mostly likely at DMU that will include food, video, guest speaker, historical discussion, singing etc.
    3. Commissioner Zanders & Commissioner Kakkanad (Connect Sub Committee)
    4. Commissioner Berkenes (Chair Report)