

**MINUTES**  
**CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**CHASKA CITY HALL**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018**  
**6:30 P.M.**

1. Roll Call

Chairperson Kim called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Chairperson Robert Kim, Vice Chairperson Barbara Colhapp, Jen Welvaert, Jeff Filipek, Donzel Leggett

Staff Liaison: Nate Kabat

Visitor Presentation: Kate Martens, School District 112

Public Observers: Judy Dunbar, Lisa White

2. Adopt the Agenda

Motion Filipek by to adopt the agenda. Second by Welvaert.  
Motion passed

3. Open Forum - None

4. Kate Martens, Advisor, Chaska High School Diversity Club

Filipek introduced Kate to the group. Martens works for District 212 as a teacher, leads the Chaska High School Diversity Club, and helped connect students to the MLK Day event to do the readings.

Martens spoke with the group about plans to hold a Pow Wow in Chaska. She has been working with Walt and Geri Ripplinger. The past few years have been held at the school gym. Pow Wows have also been held at parks in Chaska but was not the past couple of years due to lack of volunteer assistance. High School has received some money through the American Indian Education Program to help resource a Pow Wow in Chaska. Martens would like to tie the Pow Wow in Chaska to the social studies curriculum at Chaska High School. Funding for the event is secured. Martens is seeking to recruit people who are willing to contribute to holding the Pow Wow. Many within the School District have committed to assist. Martens presented a list of items where assistance is needed. Martens is also seeking a location for the event and is looking into school property and City parks. Martens requested the Human Rights Commission's support. Seeking to hold the event on May 18-19, 2018.

Commission members expressed interest in involvement. Asked Martens to continue to share information with the Commission about ways to assist.

5. Approve Minutes of December 28, 2017 HRC Meeting  
Motion by Filipek to adopt the agenda. Second by Colhapp.  
Motion passed.
6. Treasurer's Report  
Unspent as of End of 2017: \$1,615  
Start new in 2018: \$2,000
7. New Business
  - (A). Outreach
    - (1). MLK Day Human Rights Breakfast, January 15, 2018 – Recap and 2019 MLK Breakfast Plan

Commissioners discussed a desire to designate a larger budget to grow the programming. Welvaert and Leggett agreed that more planning ahead of time will allow to bring in more presentations, a keynote that would draw an audience, and allow for lead time to prepare the school music programs to prepare. Leggett suggested that the school would benefit from more lead time and agreed to begin that conversation. The group appreciate the involvement of the students who did the readings this year. Filipek mentioned the opportunity to reach out to elected leaders from surrounding Cities, and State and Federal officials.

For next year, Kabat agreed to reserve the event center. Leggett agreed to approach the Chaska High School choir and band. Welvaert suggested seeking a gospel choir would be good. Welvaert agreed to record the sign-in sheets to use as a mailing list next year.

(B). Outreach, Education, Visibility, and Public Relations

- (1). 2018 HRC Goals and Initiatives – Proposals, Feedback, Plan, and Implementation

Kim asked the group to offer their ideas for initiatives that the Commission should take on in 2018. He listed the annual initiatives that the Commission does – the Human Rights Award at Hometown Holiday, and the River City Days Booth. Colhapp suggested that the brochure should be reviewed for updates. Welvaert added that the River City Days booth giveaways should be reviewed for relevance and to ensure items given away at the booth reflect the Commission's current goals. Leggett suggested that the setup of the booth should be revised to draw people to the tent more successfully. He suggested that the group should be clear on the discussion items. Welvaert suggested an activity might help draw people in. Kim suggested that the River City Days booth be an item to focus on beginning in March.

Leggett suggested that the Pow Wow be an initiative to support in 2018. He suggested that the Human Rights Commission could support with funding and people power.

Welvaert suggested that potential exists to be more intentional about reaching out to groups to solicit HRC Award nominations. Leggett and Colhapp offered a number of ideas about how marketing could be improved for the award.

Welvaert asked about whether a Facebook page could be a valuable thing for the Human Rights Commission. The group agreed to add this to the list of items to consider for 2018. Kabat suggested that the group wait for the new Communications Manager to come onboard to get his insight on the best way to use social media as a resource.

Kim suggested that doing work to address the topics of homelessness and hunger would be good. Leggett suggested that he would like to work with the group that is seeking the transitional housing project in Chaska. Welvaert agreed those are both important topics to look at. Welvaert suggested that a focus or overarching theme for the year would help to focus effort. Leggett added that by choosing a theme, the group would seek to infuse that theme into the annual events that are planned for and would guide other initiatives taken on. The group agreed that February would be a good opportunity to include the new members that the Council plans to appoint at its Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to identify the year's theme.

8. Other Business

(A). 2018 HRC Officers

Kim previewed the process to appoint the Commission chair and vice-chair to the group. Kabat suggested that the group nominate and recommend the chair and vice-chair at the February meeting when the fully appointed commission meets.

Kim suggested that sub-committees could also be created to focus on tasks or events to execute plans. Leggett added that creating sub-committees could help generate some energy around executing the events. He suggested that other community members could get involved that way as well.

(B). Meetings in the Council Chamber and broadcast

Kabat informed the group that the February meeting will be in the Council Chamber and televised on the community cable station. The group agreed that this will be a good change to increase transparency and access for the public

9. Adjourn

Motion by Colhapp to adjourn, second by Welvaert.

Adjourned at 8:00 pm.