

**MINUTES - DRAFT**  
**CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**CHASKA CITY HALL**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018**

**6:30 P.M.**

1) Roll Call

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

Present: Chairperson Jen Welvaert, Vice Chairperson Judy Dunbar, Robert Kim, Jeff Filipek, Donzel Leggett, Celi Haga, Lisa White (Alt), Sarah Carlson (Alt)

Absent: Barbara Colhapp

Staff Liaison: Nate Kabat

2) Adopt the Agenda

Motion: Haga

Second: White

Motion Passed

3) Open Forum/Guest Presentation - Dawn Simonson and Emily Farah-Miller, Metro Area Agency on Aging

Kim introduced Dawn Simonson and Emily Farah-Miller from the Metro Area Agency on Aging. Kim stated that he invited them to present on this topic to the HRC as it is in the purview of the HRC. Kim expressed his hope to make this an initiative of the HRC moving forward. Kim thanked County Commissioner Maluchnik for making the connection. Simonson spoke about the ACT on Alzheimer's coalition and how Alzheimer's disease impacts communities, families, and individuals. Goals include lowering costs of care, improve ongoing care, supporting caregivers, and equipping communities to become dementia friendly. Simonson noted 65 Minnesota communities have engaged in work towards becoming dementia friendly communities. Farah-Miller provided additional details about Dementia Friendly Communities including the process that communities can follow to achieve the designation. A toolkit is available to support communities through these steps. Dementia Friends is another program that communities can support as part of a global effort to encourage awareness of and action to address Alzheimer's and dementia. Shakopee High School is a local example of establishing a Dementia Friends program. Farah-Miller mentioned that Libraries, schools, and faith communities are groups that have had success in implementing dementia friendly strategies.

Filipek asked how communities get started. Farah-Miller stated that communities include geographic areas, faith-based communities and cultural communities.

Leggett asked for examples of law enforcement involvement. Farah-Miller stated law enforcement can benefit from training and can also help with community education in the community. Simonson added that the national police chief's association has been involved in developing strategies as well. Kim stated that the Chaska Police Dept has employed an app that can help interactions with people on the autism spectrum and suggested perhaps that could be adapted to Alzheimer's and dementia.

Kim asked how the Agency gets involved to provide support. Simonson stated that they can provide resources, guidance for meeting planning, help with sector specific interviews, and general technical assistance support to the community groups.

Welvaert asked to hear more about partnerships with high school students. Farah-Miller stated a good place to start is to engage the superintendent and principal to get leadership buy-in. She added that confirmations classes and girl scouts or other groups like that could be ways to engage younger people as well.

Leggett asked about physician training. Simonson stated that many physicians haven't historically received much training in this area, and so there is a need to provide this support to the health care community. Farah-Miller added that physicians need guidance on knowing the best practice screening tools to diagnose.

- 4) Welcome and introduction of newly appointed Chaska Human Rights Commission (HRC) Members: Regular Member - Celi Haga; Alternate Member - Sarah Carlson

Welvaert asked Haga and Carlson to introduced their selves since this is their first meeting. Both provided a brief welcome and summary of their background.

- 5) Approve Minutes of February 22, 2018 HRC Meeting  
Motion: Dunbar  
Second: Filipek  
Motion Passed

- 6) Treasurer's Report

No new expenditures to report.

- a) League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions Dues

Kabat noted he has not been able to connect with the League of MN Human Rights Commissions. Kabat revisited last meeting's discussion about the League of MN Human Rights Commissions dues. White asked whether any HRC members would like to serve on their Board. Leggett expressed his concern that not being a member could jeopardize their ability to advance on their goals to reestablish. Kim suggested that this group has been in limbo for several years. He suggested that if the membership is paid, it would be good for a member to commit to go to meetings to learn more and engage. Carlson suggested that perhaps the \$100 would be better spent elsewhere. Filipek suggested we invite them to present in the fall to learn more. Leggett said he agrees that if a member of Chaska's HRC isn't interested in being involved in their group, it's not worth being a member.

Kim moved to not renew the membership for the League of MN Cities.

Second: White  
Motion Carried

- 7) Unfinished Business  
a) 2018 HRC Secretary

Welvaert reminded the group that Kabat has typically served as Secretary, but the group had heard that Haga may be interested. Haga stated that she would be interested.

Leggett moved to nominate Haga for Secretary

Second: Dunbar  
Motion Carried.

- b) 2018 HRC Initiatives:

i) 2018 "theme" – Homelessness or Hunger

Welvaert reminded the group of the desire to establish a theme for the year with homelessness or hunger being options. Dunbar clarified that homelessness and hunger are options, but other ideas could work as well. Kim asked what the value of the theme would be. Leggett suggested the theme would help to focus effort to increase impact. Kim pointed out that the group is looking at several different topics right now and wondered how these different ideas would fit into a theme. Leggett stated that an example could be that the theme would help to drive the highlighted topic at the River City Days booth. Leggett suggested that the theme could be tied to the Pow Wow by educating on that topic as it applies the Native Americans. Carlson added that dementia friendly communities or hunger could be a topic also. She agreed that the topic could be made relevant in many forums. Kim suggested that Hunger is a topic that impacts a wide variety of people and multiple community resources currently exist, so that may be a topic that could work. Welvaert brought up the discussion with Bob Roepke and Corey Magstad in 2017 made homelessness a timely topic. White suggested that the MLK breakfast could be a good place to introduce hunger as a topic for 2019. Haga suggested that housing as a broader topic might allow for more areas for the group to work within. Leggett stated that Roepke and Magstad would like to come to the April meeting.

Leggett moved to make housing the focus topic for 2018

Second: Dunbar

Motion Passed.

Filipek asked that a marketing plan around this topic be developed. Welvaert agreed to have this on the next agenda.

ii) Pow Wow, May 2018

Leggett stated he will not be in town that weekend, but will continue to be the point person. Dunbar, Filipek, Welvaert, and White will also not be available that weekend. Filipek stated the HRC can still support by raising awareness and marketing.

iii) River City Days, July 2018

Welvaert updated that her and White have sorted through the booth materials. White recommended refreshing the fliers and suggested getting some bracelets or other giveaways. Dunbar stated she will be unavailable until June and is willing to help at that time. Welvaert asked where materials have been obtained from. Kim stated many of the materials have been obtained from the MN Dept. of Human Rights and stated they could be contacted for more. Haga stated she can help obtain pamphlets. Welvaert suggested an activity could help draw people to the booth. Kabat agreed to help connect White to the Parks Dept. to inquire about available games. Kim provided an update on the Cultural Heritage Days planning.

iv) MLK Breakfast, January 2019

Filipek stated the Chamber would be a co-sponsor again. He confirmed with Kabat that the Event Center is reserved. He outlined steps being taken to plan for the 2019 event.

8) Other Business

Kim suggested taking time to talk about the presentation, and suggested Chaska should move towards being an Alzheimer's Friendly Community. Dunbar asked whether a committee on this topic should be developed. Welvaert expressed concern that the group has many initiatives already underway and wondered whether the group can take this on. Carlson suggested that the group learn more and use the

River City Days booth to talk about the effort to gauge community interest. Dunbar stated that she agrees with Kim that becoming a dementia friendly community would take a lot of work outside of the HRC meetings to accomplish, which is why she suggests a subcommittee to work on that topic. Haga stated she thinks the group needs more information to determine how to move forward and offered to connect with Chanhassen to learn about their effort.

Kim moved to have the HRC take on an initiative to work towards Chaska becoming a designated Alzheimer Friendly Community.

Second: Filipek

Kim stated that this is important, it's within the HRC work area, it is achievable, and the HRC needs to serve this under represented and growing population.

A voice vote was not unanimous. A hand and voice vote by roll call was taken for clarification.

Results of the roll call vote:

Welvaert: No

Dunbar: No

Kim: Yes

Filipek: Yes

Leggett: No

Haga: No

White: No

The voting resulted 5-2, against the motion, therefore the motion did not pass.

Haga agreed to proceed with learning more and bringing that to the next meeting. Kim asked to be notified and included in any communication/meeting with Chanhassen.

Leggett stated he is running for the MN State House seat in district 47b, and has received the DFL endorsement. He plans to continue serving on the HRC, and recognizes that the HRC is nonpartisan and non-political political body and will respect that in his candidacy.

Dunbar asked whether the Commission would like her to look into acknowledging new American citizens who are in the community. Dunbar noted Eden Prairie has the bias crime network which is a partnership between the Police Department and the Human Rights Commission. Dunbar wondered whether this information sharing could be established with the Police Department. Dunbar stated that Bloomington does a monthly e-newsletter and wondered whether meeting notices should be placed in the Herald. Carlson added that the HRC webpage could be updated. Dunbar notified the group of a certification the University of Minnesota offers for free and will provide more info to anyone interested.

9) Adjourn – 8:30 p.m.

Motion: Kim

Second: Leggett

Motion Passed.