

MINUTES
CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CHASKA CITY HALL
THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2018
6:30 P.M.

1) Roll Call – Called to order 6:32

Present: Bean, Carlson, Colhapp, Dunbar, Haga, Welvaert, Absent: Kim, Leggett, White.

Chair Welvaert welcomed Ellen Bean as the new alternate to the commission.

2) Adopt the Agenda

Moved – Carlson/Second Colhapp. Motion Approved.

3) Open Forum/Guest Presentation

No guest presentation this month. Veterans Court presentation scheduled for September.

4) Approve Minutes of July 26, 2018 HRC Meeting

Motion: Colhapp, Second: Carlson. Motion Approved.

5) Treasurer's Report

No expenditures in July. Balance of \$ \$1271.73

6) Old Business

a. River City Days, July 2018

Welvaert asked for feedback.

Colhapp noted the fans were a big hit – we went through all 250.

Welvaert agreed, noting they were a great outreach tool, much of which was conversation-driven. Some folks were just out for fans, but that was minority. Lots of educational opportunities to discuss mission of HRC. Fifteen people signed up for email list to get notification of future activities.

Dunbar noted there wasn't a lot of traffic on Sunday, particularly during parade. Next year the commission may want to consider doing something more abbreviated or not having a presence at all.

Carlson added that while River City Days asked the HRC to do introduction of Sunday multicultural events, they didn't have microphone or amplification system under the big tent so there wasn't an opportunity to provide that service.

Welvaert said that if HRC is engaged next year, we will need to make sure there's AV support. Some miscommunication about things on Sunday, including lack of a tent for HRC, and will need to make sure that everything is better laid out.

Kabat noted that HRC involvement in Sunday activities came about late in the conversation. If this is an ongoing activity next year commission members can engage the RCD planners early to make sure everyone's on the same page.

Welvaert said that while traffic on Sunday is lighter, people are in less of a hurry, so there's greater opportunity for higher quality connections.

Carlson added that wasn't the experience this year but Kabat's suggestion is good, make sure commission members are more plugged in with RCD and have a more vocal role next year.

Dunbar noted only one of two scheduled performers were there.

Welvaert added some other takeaways: lots of people asked how they can be involved and wanted a better understanding of what commission is/what we do. Some folks asked about donating to support, and she recommended they look at organizations engaged in work in our focus issue areas if they were looking to support activities on the local level.

Carlson asked what the process would be to accept a donation if it came to the commission.

Kabat answered that the City Council would have to vote to accept donations. The Fire Department and Police Department more commonly receive donations. We could probably accept for HRC, but that would take some investigation.

Welvaert suggested continuing to focus on keeping donations local with those orgs working on housing/homelessness issues.

b. MLK Breakfast, January 2019 – Update from Barbara Colhapp

There will be a more focused discussion in September to try and get more detailed about planning. Colhapp will reach out to the Chamber to get an update on the agenda at this point and what remains to be done. She will check in with Leggett on music.

Welvaert raised the possibility of booths at the event. Bean suggested that the kind of set-up might not make sense and Haga noted given the timing and focus of the event maybe a single table with information on local resources (and perhaps, via Carlson suggestion, some books via the library about Dr. King and civil rights) might be a better alternative.

Haga noted that if the speaker is a panel on the issues of homelessness in the county, thought will need to be given to who moderates that and how it is tied back to the overall theme of the event and Dr. King's life and work.

Kabat will work with Colhapp to follow up with Filipek on plans to date.

7) New Business

a) ArtSpace – Recap

Kabat provided background about ArtSpace. They are a nonprofit based out of Minneapolis that do projects across country developing rent-restricted affordable housing spaces built toward artists. On the first floor there are spaces to interact with public (galleries, performance spaces) designed depending on community personality/needs. They have done one of these complexes recently in Hastings.

The city is considering it as part of City Square West redevelopment. It would add to vibrancy of downtown with a mix of commercial and residential spaces. ArtSpace has been in Chaska to tour downtown, hold focus groups, etc. Their next step is taking that information, evaluating our market in terms of housing and arts, and assess whether there's an opportunity of them to do a project here. A final report out of those findings will be out sometime later in the fall.

Welvaert was part of the focus group and noted that these are livable spaces, community-oriented, not just for single artists, some are family apartments. Really great way to get more folks interested in the arts.

Dunbar asked if they're looking for a place, or places in various communities? Do they build one unit or several?

Kabat answered that they are a large organization with offices around the country. Multi-family housing is their typical profile. There is an arts community here, one that is looking for a hub. They are considering how the arts play into the humanities and culture and what they add to the social fabric. Timeline could take two to five years.

b. Speaking request from Integrated Arts Academy

Welvaert spoke with the comm outreach specialist at IAA at River City Days, who expressed interest at having someone or a group of people from the commission to come in and do a presentation to the IAA. Welvaert did not have a lot of specifics and will follow up after school starts.

c. Booth opportunities

Kabat has talked with the organizers of the Farmers Market and they're happy to make the opportunity for a table available to HRC. Farmer's Market is every Wednesday through 9/12, which is soon. If there are volunteers available, great, if not, it's something to think about proactively for next year. He also mentioned the Block Party on 9/29. The first event was last year to celebrate re-opening of

2nd Street. This year is a partnership with Guardian Angels who are co-hosting with their own festival.

Welvaert asked if an email could be circulated to assess availability for 9/29.

Kabat will follow up and email the group.

d) Other

Bean as the newest member asked for some context on the housing and homelessness theme for 2018. Welvaert provided background on the process and the decision to elevate discussion/access to information about what the issues are in Carver County and what resources are available to those struggling. Kabat noted that historically the HRC's role has been to elevate conversation, hold forums, educate, and act as a sort of bridge between the community and resources.

8) Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Carlson; Second: Haga. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36.