

**DRAFT MINUTES  
CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
CHASKA CITY HALL  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018  
6:30 P.M.**

- 1) Roll Call - Called to order: 6:30 pm  
Present: Carlson, Colhapp, Dunbar (arrived 6:33 after roll), Kim, Leggett (arrived 6:47 after roll), Welvaert, White

Absent: Haga, Bean

Staff Present: Nate Kabat

- 2) Adopt the Agenda  
Welvaert suggested that item 6c – Integrated Arts Academy Speaking Opportunity be removed due to no update being available

Motion: Carlson – with suggested change

Second: White

Motion Carried

- 3) Open Forum/Guest Presentation  
Dave Hunt – First Assistant Carver County Attorney, Carver County Attorney's Office – Veteran's Court

Mr. Hunt thanked Colhapp for the invitation and explained Veterans Court is a court designed to serve veterans with treatable chemical dependency and mental health problems. Many Veterans are dealing with trauma related to their service and are dealing with conditions like PTSD that influences their propensity to commit a crime. Mr. Hunt shared some case examples of people who have been through Veteran's Court to highlight the unique approach the Court brings and the successes that have resulted. Assistance that has been provided through Veteran's Court include alcohol and drug treatment, psychological treatment, mental health support and counseling, job training, housing assistance, VA benefits, and accountability through random drug screenings, home visits by probation officers, and routine court hearings. Mr. Hunt highlighted one component of the service is to connect the veteran with a citizen mentor to provide a support system. Mr. Hunt explained the primary goal is, "to return these troubled veterans the level of pride and honor they knew as soldiers."

Welvaert asked how veterans get recommended to veteran's court. Mr. Hunt explained that defendants who are veterans are made aware of the option. Veteran's Court is for people who have admitted guilt, so defendants need to consider that requirement. Defendants can opt into the program. Murder and sexual assault charges are not eligible for the program.

Kim thanked Mr. Hunt for his presentation. Kim mentioned that he and Mr. Hunt worked together a while back in St. Paul. Kim commented that this is a great example of the responsibility to a thorough process that the Courts have and

suggested that this is likely a last line of support for many in the program and said he is thankful for this resource in Carver County.

Dunbar asked for clarification that only individuals charged with a crime are eligible for Veterans Court and added that people who are successful through the process often have the crimes forgiven from their record. Mr. Hunt affirmed that fact and noted that Carver County is the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> County in the state to offer this service.

Welvaert asked about resources made available to homeless veterans. Mr. Hunt noted that VA resources are available for homeless veterans. Social Services and other community benefactors have provided resources to assist. Mr. Hunt noted that fewer veterans are homeless in Carver County than in other Counties. Carlson offered that the Carver County CDA also has units available for homeless veterans.

Carlson asked how people are identified as veterans in the legal process. Mr. Hunt said that police in Carver County have been encouraged to ask about veteran status upon arrest. Staff at the jail can also ask the question upon arrival. Mr. Hunt also clarified that the question about veteran status is not a requirement for people to answer because all arrestees have the right to remain silent.

Carlson asked about the timing for a veteran to identify themselves and apply for Veteran's Court. Mr. Hunt stated that a person charged with a crime can identify at any time in the process and the County will work with them to make the program available. In some cases, sentences can be reduced.

White asked about a sign within the jail to raise awareness of Veteran's Court. Mr. Hunt agreed this could be a good idea and stated he will be looking into the option.

Welvaert asked how the Human Rights Commission can be supportive of the program. Mr. Hunt invited members to come to view a Court hearing and learn more about how the proceedings occur. He also encouraged the Commission to help educate the public about both the program and the need for funding because little exists today.

4) Approve Minutes of August 23, 2018 HRC Meeting

Motion: Carlson

Second: Dunbar

Kim abstained due to being absent from that meeting.

Motion Carried

5) Treasurer's Report

No expenditures in September. Balance of \$1,271.73

6) Old Business

a. Downtown Block Party, September 29

The Commission discussed the opportunity to host a booth at the Downtown Block Party event and discussed availability among members to volunteer at the booth. Kabat provided a summary of the event and the purpose of the block party as a community celebration and a way to support downtown businesses. Colhapp stated that due to the limited coverage and the coverage being earlier in the day when crowds are lower, she leans towards not having the booth. Welvaert, White, Dunbar

agreed. Consensus was that visiting the event to understand fit better for potentially participating next year would be a good step.

b. MLK Breakfast, January 2019

Welvaert asked about where Jeff Filipek is looking for input. Kabat clarified areas including the keynote. Carlson noted that she has been exploring options for a panel on homelessness. She suggested Dr. Richard Scott and a couple residents of CDA housing, and suggested a Carver County Community Development staff member could speak to programs and efforts. Carlson suggested that an opening and a closing invocation could provide an opportunity for another faith community member to be involved. Leggett suggested that Corey Magstadt of Launch Ministry may have ideas of people who could speak about homelessness.

Leggett asked for clarification about who is the point for each of the agenda items. Kabat stated that he will follow up with Filipek to get clarification on the items and will invite Filipek to the October Commission meeting to discuss the event and coordinate effort.

Carlson asked about getting the word out on the human Rights award soon. The group agreed that advertisement in the Herald along with Social Media would be appropriate.

Kim suggested that he views Jeff Filipek as the lead on the event. He views the Commission as a support role. All agreed that Filipek is the lead. Kabat agreed to pursue gaining clarity on leadership roles for the individual agenda items.

Welvaert suggested that the tie to MLK and his teachings needs to be included in a panel if that is pursued, or any other speaker for that matter. Donzel suggested that Dr. King did work to end homelessness and so that message is relevant and has a tie.

~~c. Integrated Arts Academy Speaking Opportunity~~

7) New Business

a. Holocaust memorial exhibit

Kabat provided a summary. Kabat explained that this memorial exhibit is being planned to be hosted within the City of Chaska for residents to learn about the Holocaust and participate in community discussions about how that event in history impacts us today. Kabat noted that the Police Department is leading this effort and welcome support from the Human Rights Commission both financially and to help market the event. Kabat stated the cost to bring the exhibit to Chaska is \$500. Welvaert suggested that the Human Rights Commission could cover the full \$500.

Welvaert made a motion to spend \$500 to support the exhibit.

Second by Carlson.

Motion Carried

The Commission is also supportive of being included in the marketing materials.

Dunbar suggested the Commission members would benefit by having name tags to wear to events so community members can identify members more easily.

Dunbar moved to have the City order name tags.

Second by Leggett

Motion Carried

Carlson asked for magnetic as opposed to pin-on.

White suggested that t-shirts could be made as well. These would be an item to identify Commissioners at event.

Leggett moved to have White look into t-shirts.

Second by Dunbar.

Motion Carried

#### 8) Adjourn

a. Motion: Carlson

Second: Leggett

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 7:56