

Owatonna Human Rights Commission – Minutes January 8, 2019

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission (OHRC) met on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 in the Second Floor Conference Room of the City Administration Building. Commission Chairman Cords called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Commissioner Gillespie took roll call with the following Commissioners present were: Ethan Cords; Jim Gunderson; David Emanuelson; Fred Ventura; Jamie Vanoosbree and Ryan Gillespie. Also, present were City Administrator Kris Busse and Administrative Assistant Jeanette Clawson. Commissioner John Worden was unable to attend.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Cords welcomed everyone to the meeting. After reviewing Minutes of the December OHRC Meeting, Commissioner Ventura made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Gunderson seconded the motion and all members present voted aye for approval.

There were no comments heard during the Open Forum.

During Commissioner Comments, Commissioner Emanuelson reported he received a \$50 check for reimbursement towards the activity supplies purchased for the 2018 CulturFest.

During Old Business, Commissioners reviewed details for the 2019 Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast planned for Monday, January 21st. Posters were printed and distributed; commissioners have delivered all 50 posters to schools, college, businesses, churches, Library, History Center, restaurants, City and County Administration Buildings. Advertisement will run on the LED Billboard, the city's public access channels, the Library's Facebook page, the news stream shown at the Park & Rec Department, West Hills Gym and Commons; and included on the City's website and Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Worden is preparing a brief survey for attendees to complete regarding interest and knowledge of OHRC activities and purpose. Commissioner Ventura has been in contact with speaker Andre Koen and Commissioner Cords has confirmed plans with Jose Garcia, owner of the Plaza Morena Campestre Grille.

City Administrator Busse advised the Chamber Bucks (\$600) previously purchased by the commission were cashed and funds now available for commission expenses.

Further discussion for a Welcome Center was tabled. Commissioners plan to attend an Owatonna Forward Meeting to discuss collaboration opportunities as plans develop. Downtown Redevelopment is a Destiny Driver of Owatonna Forward, which includes a Welcome Center.

Commissioner Ventura commented he has heard several negative comments regarding the new mural of Princess Owatonna on the Owatonna Shoe building. These comments have prompted some concerns he has for the proposed OHRC Mural Project. The OHRC Mural Project was approved when others were serving as commission members; he would like confirmation current members wish to proceed with this project as project costs are estimated at \$14, 000 and no funds have been secured to date. In addition, he is opposed to the proposed location; he has heard comments the mural would not be seen during the winter months and believes only a small segment of the population use this portion of the City's trails during the warmer months. Commissioner Ventura made a motion to rescind support of this project, the motion died for a lack of a second. Commissioners declined to take action and suggested further discussion during the OHRC February meeting with decision during the OHRC March meeting.

City Administrator Busse advised draft of the 2017-2018 Activity Report will be reviewed during the February OHRC Meeting. Per Commission By-Laws, an annual written report shall be given to the City Council or commission members will appear at least annually before the City Council to discuss past, present, and future activities.

Commissioner Ventura asked commissioners to bring ideas to the next meeting for the LED billboard. The current spot, "You're not Alone" in support of LBGTQ has run for six months and should be replaced with another message.

During New Business, Commissioner Ventura requested Chairman Cords send draft of the meeting agenda for member's suggestions. Commissioner Emanuelson suggested the commission hold a session to review the commission's goal and strategic plans. Commissioner Cords suggested creating a list of objectives and goals.

At 6:25 p.m., Commissioner Emanuelson made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Ventura seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.