

Meeting Place: Remote

Meeting Called To Order: 6:08, Monday, April 26, 2021

Vice Chair read the Chairperson Statement.

Roll Call: Daniel Yalowitz, Mo Lyons, Carolyn McDaniel, Peter Michael Smith, Wendy Goodman, Wid Perry

Regrets: Loreen Flockerzie (technical difficulties)

Others Present: Keith Barnicle, Communications Director, Town of Greenfield; Bob Williford (Community observer)

Note: Tracy Burly has resigned by e-mail but technically City Hall needs a signature to make it official. Kai Pratt has officially resigned.

A **motion** was to approve the April 12th Minutes with one edit (“Vice Chair” vs “Co-Chair on page 2), motion seconded and approved.

Announcements: Keith reported that the COVID-19 response continues. People with concerns or comments can contact the Mayor’s Office or the Health Department. Vaccines continue at the Jon Zon Center through May 15th but will transition to the county program at GCC.

Public Open Forum: Nothing to discuss. Bob Williford is again observing.

Human Rights Incident/Complaint Form Subcommittee Report. Daniel, Pete and Wid met one more time since our last meeting to review, edit, streamline and revise the draft with feedback received from the Commissioners.

Pete made a **Motion** Approve the final proposal as presented and sent it to the Mayor’s Office for her and Legal Counsel’s review.

Carolyn second and the motion passed, 5-0. Pete will forward the document to Keith’s e-mail account.

New Business. Human Rights Committee Mission Statement. Are we satisfied with the Mission Statement (as is) or do we need to update it (and add a Vision Statement)?

Mission Statement:

The Greenfield Human Rights Commission believes that all citizens of the community have the right to be treated with dignity, respect, fairness, impartiality and justice without regard to race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion or disability.

The Human Rights Commission will:

- Promote a positive sense of community and unity based on our similarities and differences
- Provide a forum for the promotion of dialogue, education, healing and celebration of our diversity
- Investigate, mediate, respond and report to the community on allegations of human rights violations
- Provide resources, direction and counsel

The Commission shall work toward enhancing the quality of life in Greenfield through promoting understanding, appreciation and respect.

Does the mission statement have ‘teeth’? Should we revise the order of the Mission Statement, reversing the opening and closing paragraphs? Do we need the word “Will” – omitting the word will makes it more actionable. The mission statement should be specific and succinct. This is our charge - our call to action. “Human beings” vs. “citizens”.

Final proposal:

MISSION STATEMENT

The Greenfield Human Rights Commission works toward enhancing the quality of life in Greenfield through promoting understanding, appreciation, and respect.

The Human Rights Commission:

- Promotes a positive sense of community and unity based on our similarities and differences
- Provides a forum for the promotion of dialogue, education, healing and celebration of our diversity
- Investigates, mediates, responds and reports to the community on allegations of human rights violations
- Provides resources, direction and counsel

Motion: To accept the proposed Mission Statement.

Motion seconded and approved, 5-0.

Vision Statement.

Should it be long or short? How do we envision the vision?

Vision statement should not be measurable. Rather, lofty but to the point – the essence of how we see ourselves as a Commission.

Should the Vision Statement be specific to goals (calendar) or more visionary?

We need to ensure that human rights are integrated into all our actions so we heighten the awareness because human rights are sacred. We are here to safeguard them – advocate to protect them.

Proposed Vision Statement:

VISION STATEMENT

Consideration for human rights is integrated into every decision made in the city of Greenfield and every citizen is empowered to advocate for the protection of their rights and the rights of others.

Motion: That we table the conversation until our next meeting so that the missing Commissioners can have input before final approval. Motion seconded and passed, 5-0.

Motion made at 7:30 to adjourn meeting (Wendy). Motion Seconded and approved. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 10th 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Submit agenda items to Loreen no later than noon, Monday, May 3rd, 2021.