

**Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 19, 2023**

**Commissioners Present:** Amanda Becker, William Hill, Richard James, Kathryn Macomber (arrived at 7:25 p.m.), Jeena Gurung Vomhof (arrived at 6:35 p.m.), Laura Palmquist and David Tidball.

**Youth Commissioners:** None.

**Commissioners Absent:** Elliot Francke

**Staff Present:** Rebecca Olson, Assistant City Manager

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Human Rights, Inclusion, and Engagement Commission (HRIEC) meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner James moved and Commissioner Tidball seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**Commission Response to Community Issues**

Chair Palmquist explained the Commission received two emails from community members about the land acknowledgement. That is one that staff typically responds to and she is waiting to see if Mr. Brooks has responded.

**Commissioner Outreach and Engagement Updates**

Commissioner Tidball explained a role for the Commission might be as much with the community to make sure there is a broad base of understanding in the community about why and the purpose of creating an inclusive community environment. The reason why he included the scans of a letter he received and other information is that at the same time he was taking all that information in, he was getting information like this from people who sometimes make it their mission to see that things like that are not effectively done and he thought that is a way for the Commission to help navigate those kinds of situations because undoubtedly, in any community, there are folks that applaud and folks that are threatened by the action that is taken and if the Commission does a really good job of explaining, helping the City explain what it is doing and why he thought they have the healthiest chance of dealing with situations like that when they arise.

**Approve Minutes**

**a. June 21, 2023 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**

Commissioner James moved and Commissioner Hill seconded a motion to approve the June 21, 2023 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed 5 ayes, 1 abstain (Tidball).

**New Business**

**a. Discuss 2023-2024 Work Plan Updates**

Chair Palmquist provided a work plan update.

Commission Hill asked if he could replace ex-Commissioner Peju on the work plan items.

Chair Palmquist indicated that could be done.

Commissioner Tidball indicated he signed up to work on the proclamations and did not realize that there were already proclamations created but he imagined someone has been drafting these.

Vice-Chair James reviewed the proclamation process that has occurred in the past and what needs to be done in the future to keep the proclamations up to date. He noted there will not be an August HRIEC meeting so the next proclamation will be for Hispanic Culture month, and he thought unless there is a sub-committee meeting that wants to review the proclamation and make changes to it the proclamation could go to the City Council as it is written.

Ms. Olson noted the current proclamation has already been translated to Spanish as well so if it is changed it will need to be translated again, which could take a little time. She indicated the proclamation will be read at either the late August City Council meeting or the first September Council meeting.

Vice-Chair James suggested having the Spanish version of the proclamation put on the bulletin board as well as in the Council packet and maybe a staff member could read the proclamation in Spanish at the Council meeting as well as the Mayor reading the english version of the proclamation to show the Spanish community that they are welcome.

Commissioner Becker indicated the Rose Fest Parade went well and a lot of Commissioners attended.

Chair Palmquist updated the Commission on Youth Commissioner recruitment and engagement.

Vice-Chair James indicated he would like to make an arrangement with Dr. Loeck to meet with her and get an organizational plan from her regarding the essays.

Commissioner Tidball thought that was a good idea because he had some ideas regarding youth engagement.

Commissioner Hill wondered if there were other ways to engage the youth besides the essay contest such as a video testimony or things like that. He thought with all the new technology he was trying to think of ways the Commission could engage more young people.

Chair Palmquist explained it is technically listed as Visual Arts now but the Commission's term for it is Essay Contest.

**b. Consider Changes to Current Commission Scope**

Chair Palmquist reviewed the Commission scope and thought the Commission needed to think broadly about this and how others would interpret this.

Vice-Chair James explained in the packet he put some of his ideas for wording changes but thought others could review his suggestions to make changes as well.

Chair Palmquist explained the only thing she received feedback on was to change citizens to residents.

Vice-Chair James indicated he moved some things around as well in order for them to make sense to him. He indicated he will revise the scope changing citizens to residents and then work with the subgroup for new wording.

Commissioner Tidball thought Roseville is a really diverse group of people and his sense is that engagement often happens constructively, but not always. There is a temptation not to act in a constructive manner if something rubs someone the wrong way. Even though when he looks at and reads the first page regarding establishment and membership, he looks at it and thinks that is a good idea, but some people do not engage in a manner that is beneficial to the whole community. He wondered when rewriting this maybe it could say something like many people are constructively engaged or something like that. He was not sure whether it is important or would create worse problems than what it tries to deal with.

Vice-Chair James wondered if it said the Commission was only looking at people who are constructively engaged are they eliminating part of the citizens that the Commission needs to hear from and want to encourage them to be involved.

Commissioner Tidball explained he did not mean that he did not want to hear from people that disagree with him because there are all sorts of constructive ways to disagree, very profoundly, with somebody to have a serious disagreement and to

advocate for things that are not something he would advocate for. There are ways to do that in a manner that does not violate the rights of other people.

Commissioner Becker thought some of the language should be reviewed to come up with a more contemporary way to still talk about these topics. She thought there is a lot more attention culturally and there might be an opportunity to express some kind of call to arms because there is a lot of cultural tension right now that can impact and impair some people from feeling that they can come and participate or have a voice. She thought was sort of the truth right now. She thought there were people and groups that are trying to silence others and her thought what can the Commission do to rally and sort of be at the front of those situations. She felt like there is some language in this description about the membership and duties and responsibilities that they should not miss on the opportunity to be contextual now. She thought if this is being rewritten it needs to be done to show the current environment.

Ms. Olson suggested the Commission look at IAP2 as a resource to look at on this topic. It has core values which staff has looked for information.

Vice-Chair James explained the one thing he felt like he needed to address tonight is the human rights aspect of this because the Commission is charged essentially nothing from the City Council. The Commission's job is not to do anything with human rights. This Commission is not a human rights commission and they do not take human rights complaints, the Commission does not adjudicate human rights in the community. The Commission's job, as he understands it is if a Commissioner hears a human rights violation, it is the Commission's job to help those people make appropriate contact with the State Human Rights Commission. He did not say this Commission does not do anything about human rights but the focus on human rights has to be looked at in that frame. He thought when the Commission looks at scope, unless the Commission wants to change how human rights are looked at as far as the Commission is concerned, he did not want to downplay the human rights part of it, not eliminate it but make it realistic for what the Commission is able and capable of doing, as far as what their charge is from the City Council.

Commissioner Tidball explained the groups that Vice-Chair James mentioned are much more capable of formally helping a person deal with those kinds of issues than the Commission would ever be. It is the fact of giving people information of how and where they can go to address issues and supporting them in the process of doing that seems to him like it fits within the scope the Commission has now, which would go very well with the wording Vice-Chair James already has suggesting and perhaps adding the support because it does not indicate that the Commission takes action on anybody's behalf in any kind of legal form or anything like that or that the Commission advises the City to do that kind of thing.

Vice-Chair James thought where human rights lies, he believed that as a part of their scope the Commission ends up being a conduit as opposed to doing anything.

Commissioner Tidball explained on page 64, Item C on engage, the suggestion he had is something that he tried to put in an email on page 14 in the packet that he thought might fit in this area somewhere because it talks about the idea, he mentioned about reactions to community issues. About the possibility that the Commission might have an ambassadorial kind of role, an ongoing one. He was trying to think of a way to marry the work that Commissioner Becker has been doing by taking a whole wide variety of people's stories and coupling them with information about how the City works to make a safe and inclusive community. The kind of thing that can be put in Power Point slides that anyone of the Commission could take to organizations to give a presentation and if the Commission got creative about it, those things that Commissioner Becker is working on, banners that could be brought around and become an ongoing thing for the Commission to help keep the soil in the community a friendly environment for the notion that an inclusive community is important. He did not know if there was a way to take those ideas, but he thought they might fit in part c somewhere.

Vice-Chair James asked Commissioner Becker how she saw the stories she has been working on fitting into the Commission scope.

Commissioner Becker explained she has done a couple of those now. She had the idea of a poster board with a QR Code that could take the person immediately to the interview that can be listened to, which would be a nice way to hear a person's story in a place in the City. She also thought a sticker campaign could be used to entice people to scan the code to hear people's stories as well.

It was noted that Commission changes should be sent to Vice-Chair James.

### **Other New Business or Reports**

#### **a. Engagement Efforts**

Assistant City Manager Rebecca Olson noted Mr. Brooks left the City for another job opportunity and the City is looking for someone to replace him. She explained she would like to extend an opportunity for one individual from the HRIEC to participate in that process.

Ms. Olson reported on the following:

- Commission Recruitment – Youth Commission
- Proclamation display case ideas are still needed.
- Racial Equity index for the public sector by the Center of Economic Inclusion
- Envision Roseville – open house August 16 at the Skating Center
- August HRIEC meeting cancelled, next meeting September 20, 2023

### **Announcements**

Commissioner Macomber explained in the park on Saturday, following the Envision Roseville event, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. is the Roseville 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event so a good time and place for the Commissioners to come with their buttons and meet people.

**Future Agenda Items**

- a. Consider Citywide Land Acknowledgement
- b. Scope draft
- c. Youth Commissioner recommendation
- d. Proclamation list for 2024
- e. Possible new Commissioner appointment

**Adjournment**

Chair Palmquist adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Osbeck

*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*