



500 CENTER AVENUE, BOX 779, MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA 56561

MOORHEAD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
- Approved
Tuesday, March 24th 7:00 PM
Moorhead City Hall First Floor

Members Present: Octavio Gomez, Chair, Diane Wray-Williams, City Council Liaison, Dorene Neeland, Lyndi Williams, Nate Aalgaard, Michael Carbone

Members absent: Cassandra Hedman, Vice Chair, Miguel Balderas, Evan Thomas, Sel Nygard. (Absences probably due to flooding)

Others Present: Andrew Bushaw, MHRC Staff Liaison

1. Call to order (7:05 pm).
2. Roll Call/Introductions.
3. Agenda Approved. February Minutes tabled for approval until next meeting.
4. Crime Free Multi Housing
 - a. Nancy Taralson – Not available due to flood efforts. Will reschedule.
 - b. MSUM Social Work 450 – Crime Free Multi Housing Study
 - i. See attached for content of presentation.
 1. Carbone asked the presenters who should do the outside analysis; presenters said the scope of their study didn't include that.
 2. Wray Williams asked presenters to clarify what was meant by the recommendation for standardization of the CFMH program. Presenters answered that it dealt with how landlords took specific information provided by Law Enforcement and applied it differently. Wray Williams asked if landlords are still provided all information on file or if some information was masked. Wray Williams raised the question as to why we replicate the service offered by BCA. Is BCA too expensive?
 3. Chair Gomez raised the issue that there are certain guidelines for BCA that the police do not follow because the "are not a screening service".
 4. Further discussion was tabled until more information was available on the specifics of the program.
 - c. Phyllis Emmel – CFMH Not available due to flood efforts. Will reschedule.
5. Citizen to be Heard – Criselda Maria Deleon from the Second Chance Opportunities group.

- a. Spoke on how difficult it is to be a renter in Moorhead. Questioned the practice of utilizing nationwide background checks and why Law Enforcement were calling landlords to tell them the histories of their tenants instead of vice versa.
6. Reports of the Chair, Officers, Commissioners and Committee
- a. Reports – Activities since last meeting.
 - i. HR Concern Report by Chair Gomez
 - 1. Discussion as to possible MHRC actions: Carbone suggested we find out what the MNHRC response is. Staff Liaison Bushaw will inquiry. Chair Gomez stated that he had told the citizen that a MHR Commissioner could stand with her in meetings at her request.
 - b. Reports – Upcoming Activities/Updates
 - i. Tri-College Pow-Wow – April 18th at NDSU
 - 1. Neeland and Bushaw will both be attending, other commissioners said may be attending.
 - 2. Commission would like to have a presence and information available. Potentially collaborate with the Fargo Human Relations Commission. Staff Liaison Bushaw will make contact with them to see what their plans are for this event.
7. Discussion – Citizens to Be Heard Process.
- a. Staff Liaison Bushaw presented the “Request to Speak Card” that is used by the City Council. Input was given as to how to modify this document for use by the MHRC. Modifications will be made by Bushaw for final review and approval at the April meeting. A discussion about general procedure lead from this.
 - i. Wray Williams stating that often times in Council meetings there is no response to the citizen’s comments and that is problematic. Aalgaard responded saying that in the Fargo HRC meetings, citizens are referred to the staff liaison for a follow up. Carbone added that it would be nice to make a practice of asking “What resolution are you looking for?”
 - ii. It was also clarified by Chair Gomez that the three minutes is for each individual, and if a group comes, each individual in the group gets three minutes.
8. May MHRC Meeting Time/Space Adjustment
- a. Due to Memorial Day Holiday on Monday, May 25th, City Council will hold their meeting in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 26th. This means this space and time will be unavailable to the MHRC. The MHRC decided to keep the standard 7pm meeting time but move the location to the Moorhead Library Conference Room. Staff Liaison Bushaw will secure the room and give proper public meeting notice.
9. November Training Work-Plan Discussion
- a. Chair Gomez suggested that we continue to gather information about the Crime Free Multi Housing program and continue working with Second Chance Opportunities
 - b. Wray Williams suggested that we keep informed about school cuts and to make suggestions to the mayor in regard to school representatives on the HRC. Also she informed the Commission that the Parks Dept. has

announced neighborhood gatherings throughout the summer and sees this as an opportunity to be present in the community.

- c. Aalgaard suggested a public forum on Human Rights issues, such as a Human Rights Day celebration but also periodically sending news releases, developing further the website, etc. Wray Williams added to this saying that there might be an opportunity by highlighting the Human Rights value of the Miracle Field prior or during it's kickoff on May 15th .
- d. Discussion on this item should be ongoing.

10. Other Business

- a. Derrick Swenson of the MPD was tied up with flood efforts and was not able to meet with the Chair and Vice Chair. Chair and Vice Chair will work on arranging a meeting soon.
- b. Chair Gomez recently attended a training in Minneapolis dealing with a "Racial Equity Tool" (see attached)

11. Adjourned – By Chair Gomez (8:10 pm)