



City of Grand Haven Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday July 24, 2025, called to order at 5:31 p.m.

City Hall [519 Washington Grand Haven, MI 49417]

The Highlights:

The regular meeting of the Grand Haven Human Relations Commission was called to order by Amber Mendiola-Suarez at 5:31 p.m. in the council chamber of Grand Haven City Hall [519 Washington Ave. Grand Haven, MI 49417]

Commission Members present: Amber Mendiola-Suarez, Steve TerMolen, John Siemion, Amanda Pretzer, Cara Mazure, Luke Kulikamp

Commission Members absent: Steffi Thayer

Community Members present: Bob Monetza, Mayor of Grand Haven, Barbara Lee VanHorsen from Momentum Center, Jessica, Rachel, and Daisy from Indivisible Grand Haven/Tri Cities

1. Upon the presentation of the Agenda, Comm. Mendiola-Suarez motioned to approve said agenda with Comm. Simeon, Comm. Mazure seconding the motion.
2. Upon the presentation of the June meeting Minutes, Comm. Pretzer motioned to approve said meeting minutes with Comm. Siemion seconding the motion.
3. Welcome Luke Kulikamp!
4. A welcome call to the audience is made by Comm. Mendiola-Suarez.
5. Liaison Report:
 - a. Momentum Center:
 - i. Across the Bridge
 1. Leadership exchange with Muskegon September 19-21st
 - ii. Initiative to raise money for Friendship Bench
 1. Training community members in lay talk therapy to help with community mental health
 - iii. Town Halls starting up in September
 1. Mental health and parenting
 - iv. Evidence based practice that started in Zimbabwe
6. Old Business:
 - a. Values and Mission Statement/Website
 - i. Pushed back to August meeting (new member has not had access to value statement yet, will vote next month)
 - b. Brochure

- i. Comm. Kulikamp and TerMolen volunteer
- c. Liaison List
 - i. Indivisible added
- d. Social Media
 - i. Comm. Mazure created Google doc for bios
 - ii. Holland HRC made statement that city will share HRC information to boost awareness of commission – Comm. Mazure will collaborate with Ashley Latsch
- e. Discuss collaboration with Loutit Library for Dia De Los Muertos
 - i. As extension of Hispanic Heritage Month
 - ii. Marigold making for kids
 - iii. Hosting Coco
 - iv. Can reserve a room at the library, pass out candy, hand out information about the commission, local organizations
- f. MLK
 - i. Will start planning with the city after Dia De Los Muertos
- g. Co-Chair
 - i. Steve TerMolen
 - ii. Motion to approve by Comm. Mendiola-Suarez, seconded by Comm. Mazure
- h. Memo regarding Planning Commission
 - i. 10% target proportionally across all housing types enforced for affordable housing
 - ii. Comm. TerMolen will revise, commission to vote in August
- 7. New Business:
 - a. Presentation by Indivisible Grand Haven/Tri Cities
 - i. National grassroots effort to fight authoritarianism and totalitarianism
 - 1. Good Trouble Day, May Day, No Kings Day
 - ii. Over 500 people in email list
 - iii. Community outreach – food pantries (especially east of US 31), partnering with Unicorn Tavern with micro-pantry, rapid response team for immigrants, creating safe space for immigrants, partnering with local communities, sanctuary homes, mutual aid
 - 1. Would like to create more micro-pantries, looking for more businesses to collaborate
 - iv. Lakeshore Rapid Response Team
 - v. Veterans/LGBTQ/Education
 - vi. Red cards for people directly affected by ICE raids
 - 1. Available at St. Johns
 - 2. Will be in micro-pantries
 - vii. Educating community about divisive attacks (example: misleading petitions – Decline to Sign)
 - viii. Pulling people together in person

- ix. Monthly meetings – email list, Facebook group
 - b. New ideas
 - i. City Council meeting – cleanup on Harbor Island, town hall in November
- 7. A second call is made to the audience by Comm. Mendiola-Suarez.
- 8. Comm. Mazure motions to adjourn the meeting with Comm. Pretzer seconding the adjourn motion.
 - a. Meeting Adjourned at 6:29 p.m.
- 9. The next Human Relations Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 28, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Comm. Amanda Pretzer 7-26-2025