



## City of Grand Haven Human Relations Commission

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday November 20th, 2025, called to order at 5:32 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 Comm. Mendiola-Suarez at 5:32 p.m. in the council chamber of Grand Haven City Hall [519 Washington Ave. Grand Haven, MI 49417]

Commission Members present: Steve TerMolen, Steffi Thayer, Amber Mendiola-Suarez, John Siemion, Cara Mazure

Commission Members absent: Amanda Pretzer, Luke Kulikamp

Community Members present: Ashley Latsch, City Manager of Grand Haven

1. Upon the presentation of the October meeting Minutes, Comm. TerMolen motioned to approve said meeting minutes with Comm. Siemon seconding the motion.
2. Upon the presentation of the Agenda, Comm. TerMolen motioned to approve said agenda with Comm. Siemon seconding the motion. Motion passes.
  - a. Ashley requested adding the 2026 calendar for review and approval.
  - b. Siemion. Mazure second. Approved.
3. A welcome call to the audience is made by Comm. Mendiola-Suarez.
  - a. No comments
4. Liaison Report:
  - a. Momentum Center
    - i. Free Meals Fridays
    - ii. December Town Hall on Mental Health
  - b. Harbor Transit free rides to food pantries
5. Old Business:
  - a. Code of Conduct
    - i. Ashley Latsch
      1. clarify limits to confidentiality due to the public nature of government meetings. Comm. Mazure
      2. Corrective action for commission members - process already laid out in the charter - make sure this aligns in accordance with clause... (section 6)

3. Make recommended changes - vote on at December meeting. Then add to welcome packet.
- b. Collaboration with Loutit Library (Guest Speaker)
  - i. 2026 goal for timing
  - ii. Retired MCC professor (Lit) interested in inviting to speak for Women's History Month
  - iii. Amber has another potential speaker she is meeting with.
  - iv. Steve reached out to Ken, received out of office reply.
- c. Ideas for MLK Day / a service project for the City
  - i. Kids food basket
  - ii. Operation Shoebox / Adopt a Troop (community involvement? Small business donations?)
    1. Luke reached out to the Chamber - need a flyer
    2. John says the American Legion Auxiliary creates care packages
      - a. Contact at the Legion: Katie Krizan to see about partnering
      - b. Amber will reach out to inquire about partnering
      - c. Cara will make a flyer
- d. John left at 5:47 in order to get to a play.
  1. Comm. Kulikamp to reach out to Chamber of Commerce to reach out to local businesses for donations
  2. Comm. TerMolen to reach out to service members for ideas of desired items for care boxes, and make signage for donation boxes
  3. Comm. Mazure to share information via social media
  - ii. Comm. Siemion shared outline for year-long project for 2026
    1. Wallace K. Ewing, author, spoke at library regarding his book *Slaves, Soldiers, Citizens* in 2021, Comm. Mendiola-Suarez suggested having him back for a talk at the library
- e. Updates to the HRC page on the City's website
  - i. Create a Google Doc with "wishlist" items to include on the website
  - ii. Brochure, statements, links to resources, etc.
- f. Welcome Packet for new members
  - i. Value statement, mission statement, diversity statement, duties and functions per Ordinance 20, opportunities the commission has provided in the past, meeting information, sample alleged discrimination form. Suggestion to add Robert's Rules cheat sheet.
- g. Kenzie B's Celebrity Barista
  - i. Comm. Mendiola-Suarez will be celebrity barista in November
- h. Card Making (Letters Against Isolation - to support people in assisted living)
  - i. Oddsides or Library – Comm. Mendiola-Suarez to reach out to Oddsides
  - ii. Amber has not heard from the Amory or OddSide
  - iii. Steve proposed keeping it local
  - iv. Off the Chain was also suggested
  - v. The library

- i. Social Justice Award
    - i. Table for next meeting
  - j. Revisit John's plan at next meeting
- 6. New Business:
  - a. Preparing the 2025 annual report
    - i. Divide sections of the report among commissioners
  - b. Proclamations
    - i. Timeframes for recommending those to the City
    - ii. 1st & 3rd Mondays, agenda needs to be confirmed the Monday before
    - iii. Mayor would prefer someone from the HRC to read them at City Council meetings.
  - c. New Ideas
    - i. Letter to planning commission by Comm. TerMolen under final revisions, to be discussed at next meeting
    - ii. Holland HRC has Social Justice Award, could Grand Haven do something similar? (Community Visionary Award was awarded in the past)
      - 1. Goal for December 2026
- 7. A second call is made to the audience by Comm. Mendiola-Suarez.
  - a. No comments
- 8. Comm. Mendiola-Suarez adjourned meeting at 6:05pm.
- 9. The next Human Relations Commission meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Comm. Cara Mazure **11-28-25**