

City of Grand Haven Human Relations Commission

Thursday March 27, 2025, called to order at 5:30 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 Emmett Brown at 5:30 p.m. in the council chamber of Grand Haven City Hall [519 Washington Ave. Grand Haven, MI 49417]

Commission Members present: Amber Mendiola-Suarez, Keith Colson, Greta Fuller, Steve Termolen, Emmett Brown, Amanda Pretzer, and Steffi Thayer

Commission Members absent: None

Community Members present: Bob Monetza, Mayor of Grand Haven.

**Others Present:** Fifteen Individuals from the community were present including members of the St. John's Immigrant Justice Team.

1. Upon the presentation of the Agenda, Comm. Mendiola-Suarez motioned to approve said agenda with Comm. Termolen seconding the motion.
2. Upon the presentation of the February meeting Minutes, Comm. Termolen motioned to approve said Termolen meeting minutes with Comm. Mendiola-Suarez seconding the motion.
3. A welcome call to the audience is made by Comm. Brown. Monetza stated the Grand Haven City Council did issue a statement regarding its noninvolvement in idea of Grand Haven becoming a Sanctuary City. Mayor Monetza stated that the DEI Proclamation was not re-affirmed at March 2025 meeting by the Grand Haven City Council. Mayor Monetza stated a DEI statement remains listed on the Grand Haven City's website. Oliver Shampine read a passage as well as gave his support for the Grand Haven Public Safety to issue a statement regarding how they would manage ICE involvement. Diasy Martinez spoke about undocumented individuals as well as her personal experience being a Latina woman in the Grand Haven community. Abbey Teasley wrote a personal letter regarding her immigration journey, family deportation, and information on local undocumented individuals/migrant workers read by Daisy Martinez. Mary Worbus spoke regarding being a fifth generation Grand Haven resident with family ties stemming from the Netherlands. She referenced the Old Testaments take on immigrants and, she also gave support for the Grand Haven Department of Public Safety issuing a statement regarding how they would manage ICE involvement.
4. Liaison Report: There was not a liaison report.
5. Old Business:
  - a. City Council Attendee update.

- b. Immigrant Justice Team Presentation. LouAnn Werksma requested assistance from the HRC in asking the Grand Haven Department of Public Safety to issue a statement regarding how they would manage involvement with ICE as well as undocumented individuals. She supplied a similar statement issued by Muskegon County as reference.
  - c.
- 6. New Business:
  - a. New Commission Members Amanda Pretzer and Steffi Thayer were introduced.
  - b. Discussed the possibility of a Festival for the 2026 Juneteenth Festival.
  - c. Discussed doing a collaboration with St. John's for Pride Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and Juneteenth.
  - d. Discussed having a booth at the Pride and Hispanic Heritage Festival along with a potential food drive at the Hispanic Heritage Festival.
  - e. Discussed doing a community food/hygiene driver each month or each quarter.
  - f. Discussed creating a list of food resources within the community and posting on the HRC's social media page.
  - g. A new liaison list is to be created due to lack of responses.
  - h. Comm. Brown to speak with the Grand Haven City Manager regarding asking the Grand Haven Chief of Public Safety if she could attend the next HRC meeting. The HRC would like to discuss the possibility of the Grand Haven Department of Public safety issuing a statement regarding how they would manage involvement with ICE as well as undocumented individuals.
- 7. A second call is made to the audience by Comm. Brown. Walter Davis spoke about immigration and undocumented individuals in Grand Haven as well as clarifying his requested for Grand Haven to become a Sanctuary City.
- 8. Comm. Brown motions to adjourn the meeting with Comm. Colsen second ding the adjourn motion.
  - a. Meeting Adjourned at 6:55 p.m.
- 9. The next Human Relations Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 24, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Comm. Amber Mendiola-Suarez 4-20-2025