



City of Grand Haven Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 22, 2025

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, Keith Colson, Amanda Pretzer, John Siemion, Cara Mazure, and Steffi Thayer

Commission Members absent: Steve Termolen

Community Members present: Bob Monetza, Mayor of Grand Haven and Ashley Latsch, City Manager of Grand Haven

Others Present: None

1. Upon the presentation of the May agenda, Comm. Mendiola-Suarez motioned to approve said agenda with Comm. Siemion seconding the motion.
2. Upon the presentation of the March meeting minutes, Comm. Mendiola-Suarez motioned to approve said meeting minutes with Comm. Mazure seconding the motion.
3. A welcome call to the audience is made by Comm. Mendiola-Suarez
4. Liaison Report: Rev. Jared Cramer from St. John's Episcopal Church suggested the HRC construct a value statement to affirm the values of the HRC, and to ensure all members align with those values. Mary Jane Evink from Grand Haven Area public schools reported the school district is starting a new Student Success Team that will focus on family engagement and reducing barriers for student success. The team will consist of staff, caregivers, and community members. Chelsea Payton from the Loutit District Library reported the library will be having a Summer Reading Challenge with the Grand Adventure Kick-off Party on June 7, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The library is currently working with the Harbor Transit to help bring their challenge activities, prizes, and events to migrant communities in Robinson Township and Senior Living Centers in

Grand Haven. The library has been making new partnerships with organizations like Good Samaritan, Community Action House, The Momentum Center, and St. John's Episcopal Church.

5. Old Business:

- a. The new GH Pride Festival booth Sign Up Genius was discussed. The Sign-up Genius will go into effect later in the week. The booth slots will start at 10:00 a.m. and end at 6:00 p.m.
- b. The new City Council Sign up Genius was discussed. The Sign-Up Genius will also go into effect later in the week.
- c. Future Holland HRC Meeting attendance was discussed. The Holland HRC meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
- d. An HRC staffing update was provided to the commission regarding open seats as well as Comm. Colson's last HRC meeting (June 2025).

6. New Business:

- a. The new HRC Commissioner, John Siemion, was introduced to all present.
 - b. It was discussed that the social media portion of the HRC will now be overseen by Comm. Mazure. It was discussed that the monthly meeting minutes will now be created by Comm. Pretzer. Comm. Mazure and Comm. Mendiola-Suarez to receive social media user access. All HRC members will need to be given access to the HRC shared drive.
 - c. Discussed creating an HRC value statement, HRC brochure, and updating the HRC page on the City of Grand Haven's website.
 - d. Discussed the Pride Month Flyer initiative.
 - e. Discussed the HRC's need to expand the current liaison list.
 - f. Discussed the "Across the Bridge" Program through the Momentum Center.
 - g. Discussed creating a more concrete timeline for future events/projects.
 - h. Discussed 2025/2026 strategic planning for the HRC.
 - i. Discussed the possibility for "Special Meetings" if needed in the future, and the requirements to do so.
 - j. Discussed HRC's annual report and the need for completion in January/February 2026.
7. A second call is made to the audience by Comm. Mendiola-Suarez
8. Comm. Mendiola-Suarez motions to adjourn the meeting with Comm. Colsen seconding the adjourn motion.
- a. Meeting Adjourned at 6:44 p.m.
9. The next Human Relations Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 26, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Comm. Amber Mendiola-Suarez 6/25/2025.