



## City of Grand Haven Human Relations Commission

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday June 26, 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 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, Steffi Thayer, Keith Colson

Commission Members absent: None

Community Members present: Bob Monetza, Mayor of Grand Haven, Chelsea Payton

1. Upon the presentation of the Agenda, Comm. Mendiola-Suarez motioned to approve said agenda with Comm. Mazure seconding the motion.
2. Upon the presentation of the May meeting Minutes, Comm. Mazure motioned to approve said meeting minutes with Comm. Pretzer seconding the motion.
3. A welcome call to the audience is made by Comm. Mediola-Suarez.
  - a. Mayor Monetza commented on Robert's Rules
4. Liaison Report: St. John's having a fiesta August 17<sup>th</sup> 4-8pm, free party for area migrant workers.
5. Old Business:
  - a. Possibility of making a value statement for HRC, holding members accountable to those values.
    - i. Brochure to hand out for events
    - ii. Update on the website
    - iii. Comm. Siemion wrote draft of value statement, to put on shared drive for approval July 2025
    - iv. Comm. Termolen stated possibility of brochure vs business cards
    - v. Comm. Mazure commented Holland HRC has bilingual brochure
  - b. Encouragement to attend Holland HRC meeting
  - c. Liason List reformatted
    - i. Indivisible to be a guest July 2025
  - d. Holland Culturally Competent Conversations
    - i. Would like to bring this to Grand Haven

- ii. Comm. Mazure to connect with Holland
      - 1. Partnership with Loutit Library?
  - e. Social media
    - i. Comm. Mazure discussed introducing members, reintroducing community to the commission. Members to email Comm. Mazure picture and bio.
  - f. Pride Flag flyer
    - i. Commissioners had good feedback from local businesses
  - g. Pride Booth
    - i. Not a lot of participation in raffle
    - ii. Brochure or cards would be helpful, custom banner across the front of table
- 6. New Business:
  - a. Possibility of Hispanic Heritage Festival in September
  - b. Across the Bridge – cultural immersion with members of Tri-Cities with Muskegon. Comm. Colson to send an email, encouraging at least one member of the commission to attend.
  - c. Concrete timeline for planning future events
  - d. Hispanic Heritage Festival
    - i. Partner with St. John's or Library
    - ii. Resource guides
      - 1. Comm. Mazure has started resource list in share drive
    - iii. Ask for member of Immigration Justice League to join July 2025 meeting
  - e. Day of the Dead
    - i. Offrendas at Loutit Library
    - ii. Special books displayed
  - f. MLK
  - g. Pride
  - h. Social media
    - i. Highlighting local businesses/organizations
  - i. Visionary award
    - i. Ask community to uplift and point out an individual who upholds the values of HRC
    - ii. Plaque
    - iii. Barrier – only meeting once a month, difficult to get off the ground
    - iv. Recommendation from Comm. Colson to present during Coast Guard Festival, 2026
    - v. Partner with St. Johns
  - j. Coast Guard
    - i. Parade application due July 14<sup>th</sup>
    - ii. Contact Coast Guard office to see if fee can be waived
    - iii. Swag/candy/banner
    - iv. Comm. Mendiola-Suarez to contact Coast Guard office

- v. Comm. Colson motions for commission to be apart of Coast Guard, seconded by Comm. Mazure, approved by majority vote.
    - vi. Comm. TerMolen to connect with Verduin regarding banner
  - k. Comm. Simeon cleaned up HRC share drive, created template for communication with letterhead, signature
  - l. Possibility of vice-chair, will discuss at July meeting
  - m. Comm. Siemion and Mendiola-Suarez have joined Student Success Team
    - i. Staff/Community members/parents/caregivers coming together to remove barriers for students to make their lives/student careers as successful as possible, starting with family engagement
    - ii. Comm. Thayer to reach out and promote student recruitment with vacant board seat
  - n. Comm. Colson's last meeting.
    - i. Mayor Monetza thanks Comm. Colson for his dedication to the board.
  - o. Lighthouse Immigrant Rights Summit
  - p. United Way Inclusion Exchange Series
  - q. Comm. TerMolen discussed new development on Robbins Road
    - i. Affordability of housing – making single family homes affordable, not just studio apartments
    - ii. Mayor Monetza recommending Comm. TerMolen to communicate with planning commission
    - iii. Motion to present to planning commission by Comm. Colson, seconded by Comm. Pretzer, approved by board. Comm. TerMolen to type out presentation.
7. A second call is made to the audience by Comm. Mendiola-Suarez.
- a. Chelsea Payton: Loutit Library can help facilitate culturally competent conversations, is available to help with social media concerns. Loutit Library offers free printing (flyers?). Loutit would like to collaborate on Dia de los Muertos. Could collaborate for Hispanic Heritage Month.
8. Comm. Colson motions to adjourn the meeting with Comm. TerMolen second ding the adjourn motion.
- a. Meeting Adjourned at 6:57 p.m.
9. The next Human Relations Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 24, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Comm. Amanda Pretzer 6-26-2025