



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

May 10, 2021

Zoom Conference

MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** Commission Chair Muller called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. Other members present were Commissioners Janet Flaughner, Lonnie Eakle, Kendall Alexander, Ron Heil, Christian Garcia, and Councilmember Kristin Zasada. City staff person Kelli Johnson was present.

Guests: Dr. Eryka Charley, Director of Native American Student Services and Anissa Hollingshead, City Clerk

- II. **Citizen Input:** None

III. **Items of Business:**

- a. Approval of April 12, 2021 minutes was moved by Commissioner Eakle and seconded by Janet Flaughner. It passed unanimously with those present.
- b. Boards and Commissions opening. A live link to all vacancies was shared with the Commission. Also, the city has moved to a new portal for residents to subscribe to any and all meeting notifications (agendas and minutes). Commissioners will need to ensure they've subscribed to receive agendas and minutes.
- c. City Proclamation Task Force – The City Clerk's Office is looking for two commissioners to serve on a short-term task force to help establish guidelines around city proclamations and when those proclamations are read. Commissioners Muller and Flaughner will serve on the task force.
- d. Review Land Acknowledgement statement (LAS) - A conversation with Dr. Eryka Charley from the UNC ensued. This was a follow-up conversation from April. A sub-committee of Commissioners engaged Dr. Charley in a conversation to best aide and guide the HRC's use of and recommendations for a LAS. Dr. Charley encouraged the Commission to think about their efforts with Native American populations in relation to their existing efforts to intersect with any other population. Dr. Charley urged the Commission to ensure that the LAS is connected to and resonates with our Native American community. Efforts to ensure that any statement(s) are connected to/with the community and worked through with voices from the community and the tribal governments is essential.

Dr. Charley offered thoughts around the long-standing systemic oppression of Native Americans and the potential for local government to reassess their recognition of prominent Greeley figures, including Horace Greeley and Nathan Meeker. Other considerations such as the celebration of Columbus day vs. a recognition of Indigenous People Day are opportunities for inclusivity.

No decisions were made. The sub-committee will reconvene to discuss this conversation and come back to the Commission with additional direction.

IV. Member Updates:

Outgoing Commissioner, Lonnie Eakle, recommended that an HRC representative be designated to attend the Quarterly Refugee meetings.

Ron Heil reported that an announcement is pending later this month regarding "Aging Well Community" designation.

The City and Commission thanked Lonnie Eakle for his years of service and dedication to the Commission.

V. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm. The next Human Relations Commission meeting is June 14, 2021 at 4:00 pm.

Chair