



MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

2/24/2025 - Minutes

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The Human Relations Committee met at 5:15 PM on Monday, February 24, 2025, in the 4th Floor Mayor's Conference Room, 221 N 5th St.

Committee members present included Katie Houle, Sargianna Wutzke, Mirabela Punga, and Betsy Zarr. Members Joan Klein, Gabby Abouassaly, and Chair Thea Jorgensen attended the meeting via Teams.

2. Public Comment

No members of the public appeared for comment.

3. Consider Approval of Minutes

Member Houle moved to approve the minutes as presented and Member Kleine seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

4. Community Conversations

Chair Jorgensen led a conversation about the current status of the previously planned Community Conversations event. Chair Jorgensen then informed the committee that the Transportation Steering Committee (TSC) would like to have a public input meeting to address public transportation needs in the community and Mayor Schmitz and Commissioner Connelly both identified that a Community Conversations event in May would be a great opportunity for both the Human Relations Committee (HRC) and TSC. It was discussed that the TSC would like to have the event in May.

Member Wutzke moved to have a Community Conversations Event in May in cooperation with the TSC and Member Houle seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

5. Community Events

Chair Jorgensen discussed the difficulty of creating a calendar of events for the HRC. Chair Jorgensen discussed the Families Around the World Event on April 28th at the Library. Member Klein discussed the Annual Cultural Expo on May 17th at the Heritage Center.

6. 2025 Budget

Member Houle shared the 2025 budget that she prepared with the committee.

7. 2024 Humanitarian Awards

Committee members were presented with the updated nomination form for review. Member Houle will communicate with Administration staff on recommended changes to the nomination form. The committee discussed opening the nomination period in early March and leaving open till April 15th. It was decided that the HRC would select winners of the Humanitarian Award at the April 21st meeting and present the winners at the May 27th City Commission Meeting.

8. 2025 Goals

No goals were discussed. The Committee will discuss 2025 goals when the new committee chair is elected.

9. Other Business

Member Wutzke motioned to allow the Administration Department to purchase a table and canopy for community events not to exceed \$250. Member Houle seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM.