

Human rights commission minutes 06/16/2021, 4:30pm, Drake Public Library

In attendance: Rita Mertens (chair), Jordan Esbrook, Don Schild, Dave Thompson, Liz Rodrigues

- Introduction of our new member, Elizabeth Rodrigues.
- Approve the minutes from the previous meeting.
- Election of new secretary and vice chair.
  - Jordan was voted in as vice chair and Liz was voted in as secretary.
- A quick debrief of what was discussed at the previous community leaders meeting in April
  - Rita attended.
  - The main topic was mental health. There is broad consensus that Grinnell and Iowa in general are in the midst of a mental health crisis, but there is little funding to address it.
  - Law enforcement ends up being the only known resource for mental health situations.
- Commission mission statement.
  - Rita will look for examples to begin drafting process.
- Other issues/ questions/concerns
  - Dave observed the civil services meeting recently as part of the process of hiring a new firefighter.
  - Tim Hammond put Rita in touch with Russ Behrens and John Clayton to follow up on curb cut plans. The city is working on curb cuts, but it is a long term process given funding constraints. It might be useful to confirm if it is possible for residents who have restricted mobility and would benefit from curb cuts in their neighborhood can ask to have certain streets prioritized.
- Meeting adjourned at 5pm.
- Next meeting will be September 14, 2021 at 4:30pm.