Members present by roll call: Jacqueline Gerry, Shad Storm, Mel Siyo, and Lin Jennewein
Absent: Merton B. Tice, Jr., Jamie Al-Haj, Diane Cleveland, City Council Liaison, Laura Armstrong
Also present: Assistant City Attorney, Jessica Rogers; Administrative Secretary, Robin Garner; Guests, Karissa Loewen and Ramona Herrington

Gerry called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

ADOPT AGENDA

Storm moved to adopt the agenda, second by Jennewein. Motion carried.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Introductions: Karissa Loewen introduced herself from “One Rapid City”, a newly formed group currently in the process of getting formally organized. They’ve had a couple of meetings with the last meeting having 27 attendees. All are currently volunteers. They do not have an office yet but are meeting at a local coffee place until they do. Karissa is here to educate herself on the Human Relations Commission and the group is looking to advocate for persons who have concerns on discrimination. Ramona Herrington and Karissa met with Rogers last week to learn more about the Commission. Rogers discussed with them what meets the criteria, how the process works and what we need to see to have a valid claim so they understand who we can help and also to help them in directing people to the proper place. Karissa is hopeful that their work will help to filter out appropriate cases to refer to us. Rogers believes they may be a good referral source for us since they are reaching more members of the public. Lin asked how people find them. They informed the group they are part of “Rapid City Community Conversations” and a team called “Wasuyapi”. There are two parts to their mission, one being restorative justice and the other is still in the early planning stages of figuring out and determining what avenues they will be capable of being involved with. They are currently learning processes at the city level. Mel informed them the commission gives presentations on discrimination to different groups in the community and offered to speak to their group. Ramona stated there is already a schedule for the commission to speak at the Wasuyapi meeting this month. Karissa’s question to the commission is how they can be most supportive in our process. Gerry explained that all complaints now start with the City Attorney’s Office, who have the roll of determining valid complaints and the legal process, before this committee reviews them. She also stated there is a commission at the state level and some cases go there. Siyo expressed the commission wanting to be more seeable in the community. He
also reiterated many investigations found that most of the complaints were not discrimination based. Karissa expressed difficulty in finding information on the City website and the information being in multiple places. Examples she gave were meeting dates and times and minutes being very old. Rogers explained website maintenance is handled by the IT department but she would be more than happy to relay any requests to them from the commission regarding changes. Gerry stated we will look at the website and determine possible changes. Karissa asked how decisions are made on who resides on the commission and Siyo explained that commissioners are appointed by the mayor and Rogers read the ordinance regarding who the Mayor takes into consideration when making those appointments.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE September 7, 2017 MEETING
Storm moved to approve the September 7, 2017 minutes. Second by Jennewein. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS: Shad Storm was sworn in as a new commissioner.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Chair nominations: Siyo nominated Gerry; Second by Jennewein. Nominations ceased. Motion made by Jennewein second by Siyo. Vote unanimous.

Vice Chair Nominations: Siyo nominated Cleveland Second by Jennewein. Motion by Jennewein to cease nominations second by Siyo. Vote unanimous.

Administrative Officer Nominations: Gerry informed the group Al-Haj not interested in accepting nominations. Siyo nominated Storm second by Jennewein. Motion by Jennewein to cease nominations second by Siyo. Vote unanimous.

CASE STATUS UPDATE- CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE
Assistant City Attorney Jessica Rogers met with one individual regarding a possible housing complaint. She is currently reviewing all of the documentation to determine if there is a valid complaint to draft.

DISCUSSION ON COMMUNITY MEETINGS IN AUGUST
None.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND 2017 PLANNING
a) Gerry informed the group the school outreach project has been shelved and will be taken off of the agenda.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE
They have not met.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS
a) Storm will be attending a breakfast October 26th on workforce diversity. Gerry explained the discussion at this event is educating businesses on hiring workforce diversity and acknowledging those businesses who do.
b) Al-Haj is working on a presentation to the Wasuyapi group.

LIAISON REPORT
Storm shared a letter from Laura Armstrong, commission liaison, in her absence. Armstrong is asking if there is anything we think the City Council should be made aware of. She would also like each member’s opinion of what the Human Relations Commission actually does and is requesting specific examples or events regarding the committee’s involvements. She would also like to see the committee create a strategic yearly plan to help define and grow our group. She is encouraging the committee to attend the Workforce Diversity Breakfast on October 26th. Rogers informed the commission if the committee is attending as a group, the City Attorney’s Office needs to be notified so a notice can be posted to inform the public. Armstrong also wanted to share that some city leaders and members of Mniluzahan Okolakiciyapi (MOA) are having an informational field trip to the Museum of Tolerance January 10-13, 2018 located in Los Angeles. For more information, please use the link: http://www.museumoftolerance.com/site/c.tmL6KfNVLtH/b.9052747/k.BEE4/Home.htm. She is planning to attend and will compile a summary/presentation from what she learns and bring back to the commission.

BUDGET UPDATE
Garner stated the current budget amount has not changed at approximately $986.00 with $250.00 allocated for the printing of brochures. Upcoming costs could include the cost of a new formal complaint.

Gerry noted she would like an advertisement in the Native Sun News before the end of the year.

SET DATE AND TIME OF NEXT HRC MEETING.
The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURN
Jennewein moved to adjourn. Second by Storm. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 2:59 p.m.