Members present by roll call: Jacqueline Gerry, Diane Cleveland, Merton B. Tice, Jr., Shad Storm, Mel Siyo, Seth Malott and Lin Jennewein

Also present: City Council Liaison, Laura Armstrong, Assistant City Attorney Jessica Rogers, and Administrative Secretary, Robin Garner

Gerry called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Lin Jennewein arrived at 2:10 pm

ADOPT AGENDA
Cleveland moved to adopt the agenda, second by Storm. Motion carried.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT
Council Liaison Armstrong introduced Sturgis Brown High School Assistant Principal Chad Hedderman and asked him to walk the commission through the timeline of events that transpired surrounding the incident that occurred with the high school during homecoming week. Hedderman explained the incident, the events that followed, which included many discussions that took place with various persons who were instrumental in providing insight and dialogue in how to handle this situation, along with multiple reasons a decision was made to cancel all of the homecoming activities. Following the incident, there was a mixture of positive and negative feedback from the community. A lot of communicating, educating and face to face meetings took place during the aftermath of the incident. Hedderman also summarized many new educational tools the school has implemented following the incident that will be incorporated into the school's curriculum. Siyo reiterated the need for Indian history to be added to high school curriculums. Gerry raised the question of approximate population of Native American students at Sturgis Brown High School and Hedderman indicated Meade County has less than 5%. After Siyo explained the Commission’s purpose for helping with discrimination in Rapid City, Hedderman informed the commission the school has talked to all of their students and discussed the importance of reporting something going on, to a teacher or any administrative person, as they cannot do anything if they don’t know it’s happening. Hedderman’s advice for other schools that find themselves in any type of similar situation is to deal with things swiftly and be ready for repercussions but to stick with your decisions that you know are right for your school district. Commission member Mallot added his concern of many students who do not understand the culture that had shown any inkling of racial discrimination may come out of this with more resentment towards Native Americans. Hedderman added that could
be a possibility of some students becoming more discriminatory in blaming them for the cancellation of their homecoming; however, in the end, it was the right decision. The commission commended Assistant Principal Hedderman and the entire school leadership for their swift and professional action taken on the situation and also the education they have implemented.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2, 2017 MEETING
Storm moved to approve the December 7, 2017 minutes. Second by Cleveland. Motion carried.

CASE STATUS UPDATE- CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE
Assistant City Attorney Jessica Rogers has no new cases. Rogers had one meeting last month with three women from the same family about a potential employment issue but it seemed to be more of a management issue and they were going to work through them first and they have not come back with anything further.

DISCUSSION ON COMMUNITY MEETINGS IN DECEMBER
Storm attended the Hate Crimes presentation and provided a review. The Attorney General facilitated, with three panels representing. Each panel gave a review of who they were and fielded questions from the audience. Panels included: law enforcement, citizens in the community of different nationalities and “Potential Solutions”, which Storm was a part of. This panel was essentially a statewide version of a Human Relations Commission. Storm received a little bit of feedback from the group on his presentation on why we do not state we represent the LGBTQ community. Rogers explained as a local government we only have the type of authority the state and federal government give us regarding this. Some interpret those falling under sex discrimination and has to do with typical gender ideal. Until the state indicates how it will be interpreted, we would then be bound by their interpretation. We could try to help someone if they brought us this issue; however, it would probably go to the state.
Storm also attended the dialogue session on Racial Inequalities held at the Garage which had great attendance and was very educational.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND 2018 PLANNING
Social Media Update
Armstrong indicated there has been dialog on this, she’s had communication with Darrell Shoemaker and will be asking him if he will consider being the administrator. The commission is looking at modeling what Sioux Falls has for social media. She would like to keep this item on the agenda.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE
Diane will be chairing the March meeting in Gerry’s absence.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS
Gerry received an email from Rapid City Collective Impact who are giving a presentation to the community on their proposed transformation campus. She encourages members to attend. Storm and Mallot will attend Monday January 22nd. Tice will attend Tuesday the 23rd.
LIAISON REPORT
City Council Liaison Laura Armstrong shared the events she attended in December which included Hanukkah on December 12th, an event on Racial Relations by Dr. Jason Purnell, a Hate Crimes Forum followed by a showing of “Neither Wolf Nor Dog” at the Elks, all on December 14th. She also attended the LNI red carpet event.
Rogers and Armstrong will be attending the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles next week, the topic being “Engaging in Difficult Conversations”. A report will follow next month.
Armstrong outlined some upcoming events:
1. Emergency meeting this evening for helping the homeless during this cold weather at the Journey Museum between 5:00 and 7:00 pm.
2. Women’s March on January 20th
3. Presentations from Transformation Campus on January 22nd and 23rd 6:00 to 7:30 pm at the Journey museum
4. City Council special election regarding water rates February 20th with early voting beginning February 5th.
5. Special City Council meeting on February 26th to discuss the Civic Center. There are several presentations on the Barnett center being held at the Civic Center. These presentations are available online to watch as well. Please look for the dates. September was the deadline for ADA compliance. A decision will be made and discussion on funding; then will be put on the June ballot.

Gerry informed the commission of an upcoming seminar sponsored by “Leadership Rapid City” titled “Human Trafficking Hits Home” put on by the Pennington County States Attorney’s Office at the Dahl Fine Arts Center, January 23rd at 11:30 with lunch included. Please see the Chamber website for information and registration.

BUDGET UPDATE
Garner stated the current budget amount is $1,000.00 for 2018. The Attorney’s office did pay for the two background checks totaling $87.00. Rogers informed the commission less than half of our budget was used last year. Garner reported the January semi-annual report is due, which Gerry will prepare. Tice suggests we start thinking about what type of outreach items we can develop for 2018. Cleveland suggested to plan for LNI booth for 2018. Committee discussed some ideas for activities to involve children which is part of community planning and outreach. Tice would like to see the executive committee come up with some ideas and bring back to the commission.

SET DATE AND TIME OF NEXT HRC MEETING.
The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURN
Tice moved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 3:37 p.m.