

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
May 11, 2015
5:30 P.M.
2nd Floor County Committee Room
Governmental Center, Traverse City, MI 49684
Posted: 5/8/15

Information and minutes are available from the Human Resources Office, Governmental Center, 400 Boardman, Traverse City, MI 49684 922-4481. TDD: 922-4412. If you are planning to attend and you have a disability requiring any special assistance at the meeting, please notify the Assistant City Manager, by noon of the above meeting date.

AGENDA

- 1. ROLL CALL**
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13, 2015 REGULAR MEETING**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 4. OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Discussion regarding the Spring Educational Forum
 - b. Traverse City Homeless Population Update
 - c. Discussion regarding the Fall Education Forum
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
- 6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
- 7. ADJOURNMENT**

Next regular meeting date: June 8, 2015 @ 5:30 p.m.
Agenda Items (w/back up material) and Committee Chair Reports **MUST BE** submitted to Ex Officio, Jamie Caroffino (jcaroffino@traversecitymi.gov) no later than noon, Wednesday, June 3, 2015. Commissioner Packets to be emailed June 5, 2015.

The City of Traverse City does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Penny Hill, Assistant City Manager, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, 49684, 922-4440, TDD 922-4412, has been designated to coordinate compliance with non-discrimination requirements contained in section 35.107 of the Department of Justice regulations. Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided thereunder, are available from the ADA Coordinator.

**MINUTES
TRAVERSE CITY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2014
5:30 P.M.
County Committee Room
Governmental Center, 2nd Floor
400 Boardman Avenue
Traverse City, Michigan 49684**

PRESENT: Commissioners Gardner, Hornberger, Johnson, McClellan, Mentzer,
Nerone, Nugent, and Stinnet
ABSENT: Commissioner Nash
STAFF PRESENT: Jamie Caroffino

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2015 REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Commissioner Gardner, seconded by Commissioner McClellan to approve the March 9, 2015 meeting minutes. Upon vote, motion carried 8-0.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion regarding the Spring Educational Forum

Commissioner Nugent is now the chairperson for the sub-committee for this forum.

Discussed the articles in the Northern Express and Record Eagle for advertising this event.

Discussion.

b. Traverse City Homeless Population

Sub-committee met and discussed the homeless bill of rights and what community groups should be involved with this topic. Sub-committee will work to have a draft bill of rights for the May meeting.

Discussion.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Other Forum Ideas

Discussed having a fall forum in October. Formed a sub-committee with Commissioners Stinnet, McClellan, and Johnson. Commissioner Johnson will be the chairperson. Sub-committee will meet before next meeting and bring two topics to discuss. Motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Gardner to form the Fall Educational Forum Sub-Committee. Upon vote, motion carried 8-0.

Discussion.

5. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- a. Commissioner McClellan – Requested that the Fall Education Forum Sub-Committee meet immediately following this meeting.
- b. Commissioner Mentzer – Commented on how well done and absolutely wonderful the Sara Hardy Award presentation was.
- c. Commissioner Gardner – Commented that her last meeting will be in May and that it has been a privilege and honor to serve on this Commission for the past six years.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Jamie Caroffino, Secretary

Date

RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS FOR HOMELESS PERSONS

WHEREAS, the City of Traverse City has recognized the severe shortage of and need for temporary emergency housing and affordable housing within the City;

WHEREAS, the City has engaged in efforts to address the need for temporary housing and affordable housing by 1) approving a SLUP (special land use permit) in 2014, to Safe Harbor to allow for a emergency shelter for the homeless within the City; 2) approving the possible sale of 517 Wellington building in Traverse City to Safe Harbor for the use as a homeless shelter; 3) approving a director's position within the Traverse City Housing Commission to address the affordable housing issue;

WHEREAS, the City Commission recognizes the need for and has cooperated with local non-profits and agencies for the purpose of providing supportive housing to homeless persons through housing and services intended to help those at risk live stable, productive lives including outreach, engagement, medical care, behavioral health care, case management and life skills training;

WHEREAS, the Traverse City community's generous support for the homeless population has been significant and has included, among other things, 1) since 2004, the provision of food and shelter for the homeless by local churches and places of worship during winter months; 2) since XXXX, the provision of daily breakfast for homeless persons by the Central United Methodist Church; 3) since 2004, the provision of monitoring and administrative services for Safe Harbor by Goodwill Industries; 4) since 2004, the provision of volunteer support and services to Safe Harbor by more than 2100 volunteers; 5) since 1989, the provision of free clothing, food and services for homeless persons needing assistance by the Father Fred Foundation; 6) since 1979 The Goodwill Inn has been providing assistance to those experiencing homelessness; and 7) since April of 2006 Jubilee House/Grace Episcopal providing supportive services such as showers, laundry and daytime protection from cold weather 5 days a week with 7.054 visits last year.

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Traverse City Human Rights Commission is to foster understanding and respect among all groups, to discourage discriminatory practices and to ensure cooperation in eliminating prejudice and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, despite the city and community widespread efforts to date, the Traverse City Human Rights Commission, after research and review, has recommended that the City Commission pass a resolution adopting this Recognition of Rights for Homeless Persons for the purpose of ensuring the human dignity of and respect for all homeless persons in Traverse City by reiterating and recognizing the rights of homeless persons.

WHEREAS, the City Commission hereby adopts the following **RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS OF HOMELESS PERSONS**.

The rights, privacy and property of homeless persons should be adequately safeguarded under the policies of the City of Traverse City.

As such, each person who is homeless has a right to:

1. Access basic requirements necessary for sustaining life, including shelter, sanitation, medical care, clothing and food;
2. Move freely in public places without harassment or intimidation in the same manner as other persons;
3. Have equal opportunities for employment;
4. Receive emergency medical care;
5. Exercise full civic privileges, including the right to register to vote and the right to vote;
6. Have personal information protected;
7. Have a reasonable expectation of privacy in his or her personal property; and
8. Receive equal treatment by state, county and municipal agencies.
9. Have the right to have economic status not included in media reports.
10. Allow for access to resources for supportive housing.