

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2025

1. Call to Order

Sarah Zoen called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

2. Roll Call

Doug Newton called the roll. Present were Corey Barr, Elizabeth Brusie, Sarah Zoen, Mel Poindexter, Xin Peng, Susan Musinsky, and Liz Aeschlimann. Gabriel Camacho and Lisa LaPlante were present via zoom.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

a. Minutes for December meeting

Sarah Zoen made a motion, seconded by Mel Poindexter, that the minutes be approved as written. Susan Musinsky noted that the minutes did not reflect her attendance and made a motion, seconded by Sarah Zoen, that they do so. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the motion.

4. Discussion

a. January 20th Unity Breakfast

The Commission discussed who would be attending the breakfast and that they would have a table for the HRC.

b. Partner with World in Watertown on Safe Space Project

There were no updates on this project and the HRC will be on standby for updates as to how it can assist.

c. Drinking Water as a Human Right

This item was referred to the subcommittee on the HRC Action Plan for further consideration.

d. Democracy Talks Event on February 19th

Corey Barr shared that this event will take place and that a flier has been created. Human Rights Commissioners were encouraged to attend.

e. Future Human Rights Day Event

The possibility of the HRC leading an event on Human Rights Day in December as well as an event on Juneteenth was discussed. The Commission expressed interest in doing so and this topic was continued to future meetings.

f. Future Workshop with Watertown Public Schools

Commissioners discussed several possibilities, including a podcast series. Commission liaison from the public schools Dr. Ceronne Daly suggested that the podcast space within WPS is a great space to use. She added that she has identified a group of students who are interested in forming an advisory council. She will be presenting this idea to the school committee and following up with the HRC.

- g. Massachusetts Association of Human Rights Commissions & International Association of Human Rights Agencies
Susan Musinsky shared a summary of her attending the Massachusetts Association of Human Rights Commissions. Discussion was wide-ranging and included MLK day events and music.
- 5. Committee Reports
 - a. Rules Committee
The Committee presented the final draft of its rules of procedure as well as its complaint procedure. These will need to be approved by the City Attorney prior to taking effect. The Commission voted unanimously to approve both pending review.
 - b. Immigrant Rights Committee
The Commission discussed the statement drafted by Xin Peng and edited by several Commissioners. Dr. Ceronne Daly also made proposed edits to the statement. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the statement for distribution on the HRC website and at the Unity Breakfast.
- 6. Public Comment
No member of the public offered comment.
- 7. Adjournment
The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM.