

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 9th, 2026

1. Call to Order

Sarah Zoen called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present were Commission Members Corey Barr, Elizabeth Brusie, Gabriel Camacho (by zoom), Lisa Laplante, Susan Musinsky, Mel Poindexter, Xin Peng, Sarah Zoen, and Liz Aeschlimann. Also present was Doug Newton as staff.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

a. Minutes 2.7.26

Sarah Zoen made a motion, seconded by Lisa Laplante, to approve the minutes. The motion passed eight to zero.

4. Public Comment

No member of the public offered comment.

5. Committee Reports

a. Logo Committee: Approval of minutes and discussion of how to proceed with the top three finalists

Susan Musinsky shared that the Committee has been meeting regularly to work toward selecting a final logo. She reminded the Commission about the process undertaken involving students in Watertown Public Schools which resulted in 36 submissions and three finalists. Each finalist was shared with the Human Rights Commission. It was agreed that the Committee will continue to narrow down to a final logo and report back at the next full Human Rights Commission meeting. The Commission also discussed the possibility of hosting an event with the public announcing the final logo and celebrating all submissions for later this year.

b. Action Plan Committee: Two Goals Working Group Committee Meetings Scheduled for March 17th

The Commission briefly discussed that the two Committees focused on each goal of Liz Peck's Needs Assessment will be meeting on March 17th.

6. Discussion

a. Immigration enforcement in Watertown and across the nation

Xin Peng asked the Commission if they had heard of any recent activity locally, which no Commissioner had.

b. Request from Residents Advisory Committee for a Commissioner to speak in a video promoting volunteer service

Doug Newton shared that the Residents Advisory Committee asked for a Human Rights Commissioner to record a brief video sharing the value of service and what inspired them to begin serving their community. Xin Peng shared that he would be happy to be involved in this.

c. City of Watertown Treaty Day Celebration on July 18, 2026

Lisa Laplante shared that the city will be celebrating the anniversary of the Treaty of Watertown on July 18th of this year. The Commission asked that staff gather more information on the event and how the Commission could be involved prior to the next meeting.

d. Update on Watertown Public Schools Caregiver University Event

Elizabeth Brusie shared that she attended a recent event with the Watertown Public Schools focused on caregivers for Watertown students, particularly those who speak English as a second language.

7. Staff Liaison Report

Doug Newton reported that there is \$2,750 remaining in the Human Rights Commission's FY26 budget.

8. Public Comment

No member of the public offered comment.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.