

Human Rights Commission Committee on Communication, Community Inroads & Engagement

Tuesday, March 17th 2026 at 12:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Sarah Zoen called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present were Committee Members Mel Poindexter, Sarah Zoen, Corey Barr, and Lisa Laplante

3. Election of Chair of Committee

Lisa Laplante made a motion, seconded by Mel Poindexter, that Sarah Zoen be appointed Chair of the Committee. The Committee approved the motion four to zero.

4. Discussion

- a. Human Rights Commission Needs Assessment Goals 1, 2, and 4: Communication, Community Inroads, and Engagement

The Committee began by reading through the goals 1, 2 and 4 as listed in Liz Peck's Needs Assessment for the Human Rights Commission. The Committee then discussed involvement in various community events to advance these goals. Events discussed as a priority for year one included Pride, Juneteenth, Indigenous People's Day, Human Rights Day, and the Unity Breakfast.

- b. Identify and Prioritize Potential Action Steps

Sarah Zoen shared a blank document outlining potential action steps with desired outcomes and priority populations. Such populations discussed included people with disabilities, youth, the Armenian community, and the Watertown Community Foundation . The Committee also discussed potential partners such as the Community Engagement team with the City, a list of businesses affiliated with the Watertown Business Coalition, and World in Watertown.

- c. Timeline for Potential Action Steps

The Committee discussed as desired outcomes that within one to three years, the Commission will have a full map of all key Watertown organizations and stakeholders. This could also include a clear criteria for involvement in events.

5. Public Comment

No member of the public offered comment.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 PM.