



**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
MARCH 18, 2026 AT 5:00 PM
HJEMKOMST CENTER AUDITORIUM - 202 1ST AVE N.**

Disclaimer: Voting requirements may be subject to changes in the law, parliamentary procedural matters, or other unforeseen issues. The City Attorney provides opinion on questions of voting requirements by the Moorhead City Code, Minnesota State Statutes, and parliamentary procedure.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

2. Land Acknowledgement

We, the Moorhead Human Rights Commission, collectively and with gratitude, acknowledge the sacred land the City of Moorhead is built upon. We acknowledge the people who have resided here for generations and recognize that the spirit of the Dakota, Ojibwe, Metis and all Indigenous Communities permeates this land. The contribution of the Indigenous people shall not be forgotten nor will the success that is achieved by the People of the land. We will continue to educate, advocate, honor and unite for Indigenous people of this land.

3. Approval of Minutes

A. February 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes

4. Guest Speaker

A. Catherine Chilton-Werner, co-president, and Mary Stende Miller, co-president of Altrusa International of Fargo

5. Community Partners

6. Citizens To Be Heard

7. Regular Business

A. 2026 Work Plan

8. Subcommittee Reports

A. Education and Outreach

B. Events

C. Awards

9. Reports/Announcements/Upcoming Events

10. New Business

11. Adjourn

Upon request, accommodations for individuals with disabilities, language barriers, or other needs to allow participation in city meetings will be provided. To arrange assistance, call the City Clerk office at 218.299.5166 (voice) or 711 (TDD/TTY). Visit our website at www.moorheadmn.gov



**MINUTES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
HJEMKOMST CENTER AUDITORIUM - 202 1ST AVE N.
February 18, 2026 - 5:00 PM**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Roll call of the members was made as follows:

Present (7): Evett Ellis, AnnaPoorna Rajesh, Siham Amedy, Jenifer Cannon, Jennifer Aranda, Trenton Gerads, Sebastian McDougall

Present Not Voting (0):

Absent (0):

2. Land Acknowledgement

We, the Moorhead Human Rights Commission, collectively and with gratitude, acknowledge the sacred land the City of Moorhead is built upon. We acknowledge the people who have resided here for generations and recognize that the spirit of the Dakota, Ojibwe, Metis and all Indigenous Communities permeates this land. The contribution of the Indigenous people shall not be forgotten nor will the success that is achieved by the People of the land. We will continue to educate, advocate, honor and unite for Indigenous people of this land.

3. Approval of Minutes

A. January 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve made by Sebastian McDougall and seconded by Jennifer Aranda.

For 7: Evett Ellis, AnnaPoorna Rajesh, Siham Amedy, Jenifer Cannon, Jennifer Aranda, Trenton Gerads, Sebastian McDougall

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion

4. Guest Speaker

A. Megan Krueger, Moorhead Library Director - Loop Update

Megan Krueger provided the commissioners with an update on the progress of the Loop, the new Moorhead library. Megan reported that an official opening date has not been announced but it will happen in April 2026.

5. Community Partners

6. Citizens To Be Heard

7. Regular Business

A. 2026 Work Plan

Motion to Recommend HRC made by Jennifer Aranda and seconded by Evett Ellis.

For 7: Evett Ellis, AnnaPoorna Rajesh, Siham Amedy, Jenifer Cannon, Jennifer Aranda, Trenton Gerads, Sebastian McDougall

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Discussion of including all 30 human rights to be added into the work plan and having the work plan for 2027 discussed in September and voted on in October.

B. Election of Officers

Motion to Nominate Evett Ellis as Chair made by Jenifer Cannon and seconded by Jennifer Aranda.
For 7: Evett Ellis, AnnaPoorna Rajesh, Siham Amedy, Jenifer Cannon, Jennifer Aranda, Trenton Gerads, Sebastian McDougall

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion to Nominate AnnaPoorna Rajesh as Vice Chair made by JenniferAranda and seconded by Jenifer Cannon

For 7: Evett Ellis, AnnaPoorna Rajesh, Siham Amedy, Jenifer Cannon, Jennifer Aranda, Trenton Gerads, Sebastian McDougall

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

8. Subcommittee Reports

A. Education and Outreach

B. Events

C. Awards

9. Reports/Announcements/Upcoming Events

10. New Business

11. Adjourn

2026

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

MOORHEAD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The purpose of the Commission is to secure for all persons, whether resident or visitor, equal opportunity in education, employment, housing, public accommodations, and public services and full participation for all Moorhead citizens in the affairs of this community.





MOORHEAD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

IN THE UNITED STATES, IT IS ILLEGAL TO DISCRIMINATE BASED ON:

- RACE
- RELIGION
- CREED
- COLOR
- SEX
- AGE
- DISABILITY
- PREGNANCY
- FAMILIAL STATUS
- VETERAN STATUS
- NATIONAL ORIGIN
- CITIZENSHIP STATUS
- GENETIC INFORMATION

MINNESOTA LAW PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION BASED ON THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS:

- MARITAL STATUS
- GENDER IDENTITY
- SEXUAL ORIENTATION
- RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
- MEMBER OF LOCAL COMMISSION

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (abbreviated)

Article 1	Right to Equality
Article 2	Freedom from Discrimination
Article 3	Right to Life, Liberty, Personal Security
Article 4	Freedom from Slavery
Article 5	Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment
Article 6	Right to Recognition as a Person before the Law
Article 7	Right to Equality before the Law
Article 8	Right to Remedy by Competent Tribunal
Article 9	Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest and Exile
Article 10	Right to Fair Public Hearing
Article 11	Right to be Considered Innocent until Proven Guilty
Article 12	Freedom from Interference with Privacy, Family, Home and Correspondence
Article 13	Right to Free Movement in and out of the Country
Article 14	Right to Asylum in other Countries from Persecution
Article 15	Right to a Nationality and the Freedom to Change It
Article 16	Right to Marriage and Family
Article 17	Right to Own Property
Article 18	Freedom of Belief and Religion
Article 19	Freedom of Opinion and Information
Article 20	Right of Peaceful Assembly and Association
Article 21	Right to Participate in Government and in Free Elections
Article 22	Right to Social Security
Article 23	Right to Desirable Work and to Join Trade Unions
Article 24	Right to Rest and Leisure
Article 25	Right to Adequate Living Standard
Article 26	Right to Education
Article 27	Right to Participate in the Cultural Life of Community
Article 28	Right to a Social Order that Articulates this Document
Article 29	Community Duties Essential to Free and Full Development
Article 30	Freedom from State or Personal Interference in the above Rights

AREAS OF FOCUS – 2026

The Moorhead Human Rights Commission (HRC) has identified three areas of focus for 2026.

- Education & Awareness
- Local Partnerships & Public Relations
- Leadership

PURPOSE

The identified areas of focus will help the HRC to fulfill its purpose, which is to secure equal opportunity in the following categories:

Commission Duties and Responsibilities (see attached Ordinance 2017-7)

States the duties and responsibilities of the commission which is to foster through education and public information, general awareness and understanding of human rights issues and laws in the community.

- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Public Accommodations
- Public Services

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Sharing knowledge and advocating for basic human rights is one of the most important functions of a human rights commission. There are several opportunities for Moorhead's HRC to fulfill this function. In 2026, emphasis will be on following topics:

- Fair Housing
 - Host 1-2 fair housing events
- Equality & Equity
 - Invite speakers to commission meetings who will teach and promote equality and equity
 - Represent the HRC at various events (i.e., FM Pride in the Park, Indigenous Peoples' Day, etc.).
- Cultural Competency
 - Host a training or guest speaker at HRC meeting
- Juneteenth
 - Participate in Juneteenth celebration
- Pangea/Cultural Diversity Day
 - Participate in Pangea celebration
- Coffee with a Commissioner
 - Every other month for commissioners to rotate hosting a Coffee with a Commissioner event.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

To further promote human rights education and awareness, the Moorhead HRC will develop local partnerships and recognize area efforts to protect human rights. The Moorhead HRC will be both an advocate and an ally for human rights. To do this in 2026, the HRC will do the following:

- **Host an awards recognition event honoring local human rights efforts**
- **Collaborate with other organizations working to protect human rights**
- **Begin making connections with Moorhead schools to create a partnership and more youth outreach**
- **Make itself visible to the community (i.e., supporting/attending events, volunteering)**
- **Strengthen communication & identify common goals with others in the community by hosting Panel Discussions and or Listening Sessions.**

LEADERSHIP

- **Responsive, creative, motivated, and thoughtful**
- **Provide direction**
- **Connect people and organizations – strengthening human rights efforts and results**
- **Supportive of people experiencing discrimination**
- **Engage and educate the community on human rights issues**
- **Bring proclamations forward to the Mayor and City Council**
- **Inclusive Outreach**

2026 FOCUS AREAS & ACTIVITIES - DRAFT				
	Education & Awareness	Local Partnerships & Public Relations	Leadership	Regular Business
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration • Poverty Awareness month 	Immigration Attorney.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights Award winner – guest speaker
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black History Month 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elect Chair & Vice Chair
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Women’s History Month • Kurdish Heritage Month 		Proclamation for Kurdish Heritage Month	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Fair Housing Seminar Event ☑ Fair Housing Month 	•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proclamation to Council to declare April as Moorhead’s Fair Housing Month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite Chandler FM Coalition for the Homeless to speak on our housing crisis
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older Americans Month • Asian American/Pacific Islander Month • Jewish American Heritage Month • State of MN – Native American Heritage Month • National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women – May 5 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Enforcement Presentation
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LBGTQ Pride Month • Juneteenth 		<p>Proclamation to Council to declare June 20 as Moorhead’s Refugee Day (3rd priority for proclamations)</p> <p>Proclamation in recognition of Juneteenth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite representative from FM Pride/ Pride Week to talk about what is happening and how we can be involved. • Invite Soweto NFH to come speak on the culturally specific victim services for the Black community

July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability Independence Day July 26 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCRI Invite a speaker who advocates for people with “invisible” disabilities such as those who are neurodivergent, deal with chronic pain, etc.
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information booth at FM Pride in the Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with FM Pride Collective for booth 	Participate/walk in parade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on CDBG 5-year plan Talk about Greater Moorhead Days activities that may be related to the commission’s work. Guest Speaker – Pangea – Yoke Sim Gunaratne or other representative 2023 Annual Plan development
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic Heritage Month begins Sept. 15 National Welcoming Week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define criteria and details for Human Rights Recognition Award 	Proclamation in recognition of Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day) – September 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite speaker from Indigenous Association to talk about upcoming Indigenous People’s Day plans. 2027 HRC Work Plan Discussion Law Enforcement Presentation
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous Peoples’ Day - Oct. 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicit nominations for Human Rights Awards 	Acknowledgement of 2019 resolution recognizing Indigenous People’s Day in Moorhead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite a speaker from Inclusive Moorhead Vote on 2027 Work Plan
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native American Heritage Month Cultural Diversity Day/Pangea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicit nominations for Human Rights Award 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite Willard Yellowbird to speak on outreach to Indigenous veterans
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Human Rights Day Dec. 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Rights Awards Recognition Event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proclamation to Council to celebrate December 10 as Moorhead Human Rights Day (1st priority for proclamations) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Rights Award winner – guest speaker

TBD				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commission training (City Attorney)
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