

ORDINANCE NO. 534, BOOK 5

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE V (ENTITLED “BOARDS & COMMISSIONS”) IN CHAPTER 2, ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATION”, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF IRONWOOD, MICHIGAN BY ADDING A NEW DIVISION 4, WHICH NEW DIVISION SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS “HUMAN RELATIONS AND EQUITY COMMITTEE”.

THE CITY OF IRONWOOD ORDAINS:

DIVISION 4. – HUMAN RELATIONS AND EQUITY COMMITTEE

Sec. 2-188. – Created; purpose.

The Human Relations and Equity Committee (HREC) shall advise the City Commission and City Staff on human relations, equity, and diversity-related issues and recommend policies, programs, services, and events which enhance human relations, equity, and diversity throughout the community. The committee will strive to support the statements below:

Vision Statement – To inspire a community that will embrace and celebrate the goodness of everyone.

Mission Statement – Identify and create resources and support for the valuable community conversations regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Gogebic Range area.

Values – honor, transparency, community-building, inclusion, understanding, awareness, kindness, action, positivity, accountability.

Sec. 2-189. – Composition.

The Human Relations and Equity Committee (HREC) shall consist of five (5) members. Three (3) members shall be residents of the City of Ironwood. The remaining two (2) members may be Ironwood residents but residency is not a requirement. These positions shall be appointed by the mayor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the City Commission. This committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members.

Sec. 2-190. – Terms of office; vacancies; compensation; application process.

- (a) The terms of office of the members of the Human Relations and Equity Committee (HREC) shall be three (3) years, except that, of the members first appointed, three (3) each shall be appointed for terms of three (3) years, and two (2) shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years. If vacancies occur, they shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- (b) The members of the commission shall receive no compensation.
- (c) Applicants shall fill out a City of Ironwood Board/Commission Application and shall provide a letter of interest, with the applicant outlining their interest, belief, and commitment to positively dealing with diversity-related issues and topics.

Sec. 2-191. – Holding other office.

No member or employee of the legislative, judicial, or executive branch or any level of government shall be eligible to be a member of the Human Relations and Equity Committee (HREC).

Sec. 2-192. – Powers and duties.

The Human Relations and Equity Committee (HREC) shall specifically have the following powers and duties:

- (a) Serve in an advisory capacity to the City Commission and City Manager on human relations, diversity, and equity-related issues.
- (b) Serve as a resource and an advocate on behalf of marginalized people and/or marginalized groups residing in the community.
- (c) Review current City policies, practices, and activities.
- (d) Recommend, as it deems necessary and proper, items for the City Commission agenda to revise City policies, procedures, and activities to ensure the fair, equitable, and equal administration and enforcement of policies and to bring to the City Commission's attention issues of concern.

- (e) Work to promote good community relations and foster cross-cultural understanding between the City's Public Safety Department and marginalized people and/or marginalized groups.
- (f) Work to promote the City as a diverse, unique, and welcoming place that prioritizes quality of life for all people.
- (g) Hold educational seminars and public social events to foster cross-cultural understanding, support for migrants and refugees, and to celebrate and preserve the diversity of people and cultures and the diversity of opinions that make the City of Ironwood a great place to live. Educational seminars and public social events shall be non-partisan in nature, not discriminate against any one demographic of the population including but not limited to their political, social, religious beliefs, or sexual orientation.
- (h) Cooperate with other groups based in the City, whose purpose is the same or substantially the same to the Committee's purpose as described herein.
- (i) The Human Relations and Equity Committee (HREC) shall have access to data, information, and materials concerning City policies, practices, or activities as it deems necessary to further its purpose; provided, however, this information shall not include personnel files, confidential information, or other information protected by City codes and policies, state or federal laws, unless expressly so directed by City after consultation with the City Attorney. It is not intended for the Human Relations and Equity Committee (HREC) to be a quasi-judicial body, an oversight board, or a body whose primary function is to receive or investigate individual complaints. However, when individual complaints arise, the HREC could be called upon to help with suggesting and resourcing avenues for resolutions.
- (j) The views of individual Human Relations and Equity Committee (HREC) members shall be considered the views and opinions of those members and will not necessarily reflect the opinions, official policies or positions of the Committee or the City and shall not be used by others without the express written permission of the City.

Sec. 2-193. – Meetings; determinations.

- (a) *Definition.* As used in this section, “session day” means any calendar day on which the Human Relations and Equity Committee (HREC) meets and a quorum is present.
- (b) *Meetings and time of determination.* The Human Relations and Equity Committee shall meet at a minimum quarterly but may meet more often as needed.

Sec. 2-194. – Implementation by resolution.

The City Commission shall implement this division by ordinance.

Effective: _____
Date

KIM S. CORCORAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

WENDY L. HAGSTROM, CITY CLERK