

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY GROUP
OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2026

MEETING LOCATION: Highland Park Police Department
1677 Old Deerfield Road, Highland Park, IL 60035

CALL TO ORDER: At 5:02 PM, Chair Canchester called the Human Relations Advisory Group (HRAG) regular meeting to order and Staff Liaison Earle called the roll.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Chair Canchester, Vice-Chair Buzard, Members Jasenof, Klayman, Luger, Tiersky, Weisskopf

Members Absent: Member Harris, Lynch, Weiner

Also Present: Student Liaison Babalola; Staff Liaison Earle, Alternate Staff Liaison Ford; NSSD 112 Representative Fink; Park District Representatives Peirce and Greenberg

Chair Canchester declared a quorum was present. Chair Canchester welcomed new members Babalola, Greenberg, and Klayman.

CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

- (a) Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2026 Regular Meeting

Member Jasenof moved to adopt the minutes. Member Klayman seconded the motion. Voice vote, unanimous. Chair Canchester declared the motion passed.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

OLD BUSINESS

- (a) MLK Day of Service (WP1)

Chair Canchester thanked everyone for their hard work on the event and read written comments from Lidawer and Lynch, who praised the event and brought up having the entertainment right after the speaker and raised the question of the primary goal of the event. Discussion was had by the group on the timing of the entertainment, if the entertainment should stay part of the event, and who would be a meaningful keynote speaker. The structure of the service project was also discussed with the idea to combine to one service project or to charge groups without projects to fund other projects or charities.

The group decided to incorporate the "I Have a Dream" speech, either read by a Park District employee or by students, and to consider a key speaker who walked with Dr. King. The group also decided consider

local entertainment and dance troupes. The group noted to reach out and loop in Ravinia, Glencoe, and kids in the community to lead their own service projects.

The group assigned the following tasks and subcommittees for preparing for the 2027 event:

Members Lynch, Klayman and Weiner will work on a subgroup to communicate/market to service groups. They will evaluate whether to consolidate any of the groups and how to create meaningful service projects.

Chair Canchester is to reach out to Glencoe and ask how they would like to be looped into next year's event.

Member Weisskopf is to look into a keynote speaker, possibly someone who walked with Dr. King or knew Dr. King, and incorporating the "I Have a Dream Speech" into the event.

Chair Canchester will reach out to Ravinia and look into local dance groups for entertainment.

(b) HP Awards Ceremony

Chair Canchester and Staff Liaison Earle noted that the ceremony is on April 23 at the High School and asked volunteers to arrive by 5:45 pm. Staff Liaison Earle distributed a volunteer sign-up sheet.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Buzard proposed to the group asking for a proclamation by the City in recognition of the 80th anniversary of Nuremberg trials and in support of the International Convention on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity at the October 23 Council Meeting.

Member Luger made motion which was seconded by Member Kalyman to create a subcommittee to work on the proposal. Voice vote, unanimous. Chair Canchester declared the motion passed. The subcommittee will consist of Vice Chair-Buzard, Member Luger and Member Jasenof. Staff Liaison Earle is to bring back information on how to propose a proclamation.

OTHER BUSINESS

(a) City Staff Update

Staff Liaison Earle reminded the group that there was time for submit for the photography and food photography contest with submissions due on March 15. A reminder was also given to sign up for resident academy, to take place on Tuesday evenings, 6 - 8 PM from May 12, 2026 through June 23, 2026. Earle announced that the permanent Place of Remembrance project is making progress in their design plan and will release information on community engagement opportunities soon. Staff Liaison Earle and Alternate Liaison Ford also reviewed the event line up for Independence Day and America 250 and invited any interested parties to join the Independence Day Parade.

(b) Chairman Update

Chair Canchester and Vice-Chair Buzard informed the group that they accepted proclamations for Black History Month and MLK Day.

(c) Advisor Comments

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Canchester entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Member Jasenof and seconded by Vice-Chair Buzard. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the members present. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Parker Ford
Administrative Program Specialist