



APPROVED

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, July 28, 2014
7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Benjamin Elmgren	Present
Claudia Pettit	Absent
Arika Lycan	Absent
Krista Nordberg	Present
Glen Sard	Present
Darlene Scott	Present
John Shuler, Chair	Present
Jennifer Symanns	Present

6 Present; 2 Absent (Pettit, Lycan)

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Scott moved to add Tyrone Bridges' concern about his difficulty reserving the Parkridge Community Center, addressed at the last meeting, to the Discussion items. Commissioner Symanns moved, supported by Commissioner Elmgren to approve the agenda as amended.

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the agenda was approved.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 23, 2014

Commissioner Nordberg and Commissioner Shuler made the following changes:

- Replace all the Schuler's with Shuler
- Correct spelling of Adreanne Waller's name
- Replace forum with survey

Commissioner Nordberg moved, supported by Commissioner Elmgren to approve the minutes as amended.

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Presentation on Latino Survey – 10 minutes

Charo Ledon, from Accion Buenos Vecinos, was present to answer questions regarding the Latino Survey. Ms. Ledon stated the survey would be posted on the Washtenaw County Health Department website. The data won't be presented in an interactive format but specific data may be requested with parameters.

Commissioner Shuler asked what the sampling size was.

Ms. Ledon responded that it was 507 but only 487 were usable.

Commissioner Shuler asked how did the sampling size correlate to our population.

Ms. Ledon stated it was more than 2.5% of the community, closer to 3%. She stated the estimation is that there are about 14,000 Latinos in Washtenaw County, which is about 4% county wide.

B. Presentation from WICIR – 10 minutes

Members of the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights (WICIR) gave a brief presentation on their efforts, issues in the community, and their plans moving forward. They advised the Commissioners to look over the packet presented to them. WICIR grew into four areas (urgent response, political action, community education, and community organization) to respond and support the needs of the immigrant community in mostly Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. They gave an overview of deferred action for childhood arrivals (DAKA). They are looking for local support and awareness. WICIR is asking for a resolution to dismiss racial profiling, prohibit collaboration of local authorities with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), immediate relief of non-serious criminal immigrants, and an immediate halt to unnecessary deportations.

C. Discussion/Planning of Hispanic/Latino Forum

Commissioner Shuler asked if there was a format for the forum or a timeline of when it should be held.

Commissioner Sard stated the purpose of the forum has changed and has become more complex. He suggested maybe having a smaller community forum with community leaders such as City Council, the school board, police chief, etc.

Commissioner Symanns agreed that perhaps a forum with city leadership to discuss the issues and concerns in these areas could lead to a larger forum.

Commissioner Sard suggested getting Council involved early since they will be receiving recommendations.

Commissioner Elmgren expressed the importance of having a forum to discuss these areas soon because of the momentum it currently has in the public and in the media.

Commissioner Symanns stated the approach has changed because of the subject matters that have been brought to their attention.

Commissioner Elmgren suggested having a forum with city leadership, county leadership, interested third parties (advocacy groups, community organizations, county health, etc), and Ypsilanti residents.

Commissioner Symanns asked what would be the topics discussed at the forum.

Commissioner Nordberg stated it initially started with the survey results to learn more about the Latino community. It changed when WICIR attended the City Council meeting and opened up a realm of immigration issues at the local, state, and federal level. She commented that it is difficult to have city leaders attend forums and noted they've been invited in the past and none of them attended.

Commissioner Symanns recommended hosting two forums: one about the immigration issues and another to learn about Latinos in the community.

Commissioner Nordberg stated she would like to have a targeted presentation relaying the data from the EPV survey. She would also like to work with WICIR to draft a resolution incorporating some of the safe community information.

Commissioner Shuler asked if drafting the resolution was part of the forum.

Commissioner Nordberg stated it would not be.

Commissioner Sard stated the Commission (HRC) should be more prepared for the forum if it will include controversial immigration issues. He wanted to ensure that the HRC host a positive and constructive forum. He added that sharing information about the survey at a forum will be easy but if they add the other issues, they need to be more careful and perhaps consult someone who has more experience. Furthermore, he would rather start off with a smaller forum where city leaders attend than have a giant forum where they talk about too many things.

Commissioner Shuler asked what their next steps are in planning the forum.

Commissioner Symanns stated the forum should be similar to former ones, where they learn about a segment of the city's population.

Ms. Ledon stated the Latino Health Survey isn't just about health but it includes other stressors as well and immigration is one of them. Immigration didn't make it to the top 10 issues that the committee picked because the criteria was things they could actually have an effect on fixing. She added that the meeting with city leaders was for an educational purpose so they know who's living in their city and the issues they're facing.

Commissioner Sard stated that since some of the issues involve youth and schools that they should invite the Ypsilanti Community School Board as well.

Commissioner Shuler asked if the forum is taking the form of something they can put into a proposal to consider.

Commissioner Symanns stated she wants the forum focused on the results of the survey.

One of the members from WICIR stated it was harsh to hear that immigration wasn't one of the issues that made it to the top 10.

Commissioner Nordberg stated they are looking at the big picture first because some residents aren't aware that Latinos live in our community.

Commissioner Symanns clarified that immigration isn't one that didn't make it to their top 10 but it didn't make it to the survey's top 10.

Ms. Ledon clarified that immigration is above all of the other issues but it didn't make it to the top 10 because they don't have the power to fix it.

Commissioner Symanns asked when the Commission planned on hosting the forum.

Commissioner Shuler stated that couldn't be answered until the Commission finalizes the plans for the forum.

Commissioner Sard stated if it's going to be focused on leadership, then maybe they should reach out to the leaders first to see when they're available and if they're interested in attending.

Commissioner Shuler stated every time they have a meeting without a proposal being approved, it pushes the forum back further a month.

Ms. Ledon stated she can have the survey data and results ready whenever the Commission decides to host the forum.

Commissioner Sard stated City of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, Ypsilanti Community School Board, and the Police Chief should be invited to the forum.

Commissioner Shuler stated he doesn't want them to create isolation within Ypsilanti because it's a County issue; it is possible that the County should take action as well. He suggested they invite City Council, Ypsilanti Community School Board, Police Chief, Washtenaw County Sheriff, Superior Township, County Commissioners, Washtenaw Intermediate School District, and Township Supervisors.

Commissioner Sard asked if they should set a date and invite people or poll leaders on their availability and plan it around when the most leaders are available.

Commissioner Symanns asked if they were inviting the public.

Commissioner Sard stated anyone could attend but it wouldn't be advertised.

Commissioner Symanns stated someone should draft an invitation letter and reach out by the August meeting so they can review it and have Frances send it out on their behalf.

Commissioner Shuler stated he would like a proposal at the August meeting that they can approve.

Commissioner Nordberg stated she remembered they discussed not having the forum at the Council Chambers but at the Senior Citizen Center.

Commissioner Scott stated they should have it on a Wednesday or Thursday and see when the Senior Citizen Center is available. She also agreed that it would be a good idea to see when the most people are available to attend, but added that the invitation could say if they are unable to attend to send a representative.

Commissioner Sard stated they need to exclude school board and council meeting dates. He also stated it needs to be a clear and concise invitation.

Commissioner Symanns suggested the invitation be sent via email, mailed on city letterhead, or through a Doodle survey with three dates as options.

Commissioner Shuler stated he would rather the Commission chooses a date because every time an additional step is added it takes longer. He also asked if they were ready for the next steps to get the forum started or did they need additional information.

Commissioner Sard stated he would draft an invitation letter before the next meeting.

Commissioner Symanns asked WICIR if the forum seemed valuable to them.

One of the WICIR members stated that education is very important and pointed out that the timeline is good because the goal is to get a resolution approved before the November election.

Commissioner Elmgren asked who would be the panelists and would they be available.

Commissioner Sard agreed a decision needs to be finalized regarding the panelists. Further he added he will send the draft of the invitation letter to everyone once he completes it.

D. Parkridge Community Center Reservations – ***added***

Commissioner Shuler reported he spoke with Mr. Bridges after the last meeting to gain a better understanding of the situation with him reserving the Parkridge Community Center. Mr. Bridges told him that he tried to reserve the Center three different instances and the dates he chose the Center was unavailable. He waited until less than a week's notice to secure the reservations. He suggested to Mr. Bridges that he give them more than a week's notice so they can provide the proper feedback and if that didn't work he could go to the Clerk's office to fill out a complaint form.

Commissioner Sard asked if there is any criteria for those who want to reserve the Parkridge Center.

Commissioner Shuler stated he believed Mr. Bridges was unable to reserve the center because he didn't give them enough notice before someone else reserved it.

Commissioner Shuler acknowledged Council Members Robb and Murdock's attendance at the meeting and asked if they had anything to add regarding the forum.

Council Member Murdock stated there are some things that City Council may be able to do in the immigration areas, as far as passing a resolution, that has some authority at the local level rather than urging Congress to pass immigration reform.

Council Member Robb stated Council can direct city staff and the police department to not cooperate with ICE when it comes to immigration.

Commissioner Nordberg asked what the council members thought of City Council's support of a resolution regarding immigration.

Council Member Murdock responded that is something that can be built. He stated that past Ypsilanti City Councils have been progressive on the issue and he believes this Council will be as well.

Commissioner Nordberg asked Council Members Robb and Murdock if they would be interested in attending the forum.

Both Council Members stated they would attend.

Council Member Murdock stated City Council meets on Tuesdays and the Ypsilanti Township Board meets on Tuesdays also. School Board meets on Mondays and the County Board of Commissioners meet on Wednesdays.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

August 25, 2014

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Elmgren moved, supported by Commissioner Scott to adjourn the meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.