



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, October 27, 2014
7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Elmgren moved, supported by Commissioner Pettit to approve the agenda as submitted.

On a voice vote, the agenda was approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

– September 22, 2014

Commissioner Symanns submitted the following changes to the minutes; on page 5, paragraph 8 should read "... P.O. Box or a shelter", page 8, paragraph 1 should read "based on the email and referral from Council she expected there to be more representation..."

Commissioner Elmgren made the following change; on page 3, paragraph 3, there is a misspelled word, "Elemgren" should be spelled "Elmgren".

Commissioner Pettit moved, supported by Commissioner Elmgren to approve the Minutes as amended.

On a voice vote the minutes were approved as amended.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Follow-up/Debrief on the Hispanic/Latino Forum.

Commissioner Symanns provided an overview of surveys collected at the conclusion of the Hispanic/Latino Forum. Ms. Symanns provided a summary on those in attendance and stated she was disappointed that none of Council could attend.

Commissioner Nordberg stated Felipe Riano and David Bates (Ypsilanti School Board) made a connection which is a very positive outcome.

Commissioner Shuler congratulated the sub-committee for their hard work on the forum. Mr. Shuler added he was also disappointed Council did not attend the forum.

Commissioner Symanns suggested a presentation be made to City Council.

Commissioner Scott stated this is a growing issue and at some point leadership with the City will have to take notice.

Commissioner Nordberg stated the resolution of support for the County ID was passed by City Council.

Commissioner Shuler stated a follow-up forum has been discussed and asked what that might look like.

Commissioner Symanns replied she would like to examine other possible topics the HRC could investigate.

Commissioner Shuler asked if the Commission would be making recommendations to Council as a result of the forum.

Commissioner Symanns responded "linkages and bridges" were described at the forum and the Human Relations Commission could fill that role.

Commissioner Scott stated the initial forum was structured to inform leadership in and around the City. Ms. Scott added the HRC puts a tremendous amount of work into hosting forums and to have those invited not attend is unfortunate.

Commissioner Shuler stated that during the last annual report Council was told they are always invited and will always be invited to any functions held by the HRC.

Commissioner Symanns said it might be wise to provide Council with an abridged version of the presentation.

Commissioner Shuler suggested the HRC should decide on recommendations before presenting anything to Council.

Commissioner Nordberg stated the HRC should organize a presentation by Felipe Riano to the members of the school board. However, this should wait until after this upcoming election.

Commissioner Scott stated she can't imagine an individual affiliated with the school system not interested in what Mr. Riano described in his presentation. Ms. Scott added the portion of the presentation describing life for Hispanic/Latino students was the most powerful.

Commissioner Elmgren stated he is interested in how the two parts of this conversation are coming together; the first aspect is that those invited are not attending and the second part the usefulness of the information provided. Mr. Elmgren added the information might be more easily disseminated if a report and executive summary were provided to those invited.

Commissioner Symanns replied a summary is included in the annual report, but it may be useful to add more depth.

Commissioner Elmgren stated the format he would like to see is one similar to what was prepared regarding the Right to Marry Amicus Brief.

Commissioner Shuler stated information from this event can be placed in the annual report, although anything presented to Council should require some type of action.

Commissioner Elmgren replied he agreed, however the question remains if the information is not useful enough to submit a report to Council, and other City leaders, why would they attend a forum to discuss it.

Commissioner Symanns stated the Commission should wait to draft a report until it has had time to review the power point and any other information presented at the forum.

Commissioner Shuler asked if anyone had an opinion of what the next steps should be after the forum.

Commissioner Nordberg responded if the HRC is in line with WICIR (Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigration Rights), and other groups that presented at the forum, the ultimate goal is immigration reform. Ms. Nordberg added the County ID program and Ypsilanti becoming a safe community are goals those groups also hope to achieve, and might be more within the power of the City to address.

Commissioner Elmgren stated becoming a safe community is definitely an initiative that could be achieved at the city level.

Commissioner Shuler stated the County ID is a tool useful for law enforcement that will enable police to follow-up with individuals who, in the past, avoided the police due to lack of identification.

Commissioner Nordberg stated Ypsilanti becoming a safe community would be a difficult process; however the County ID program should happen relatively quickly.

Commissioner Shuler asked if the County passes the County ID program would it automatically take effect in Ypsilanti.

Commissioner Symanns responded it would be up to each individual jurisdiction to decide what forms of identification it would accept.

Commissioner Shuler stated at the very least a resolution should be created requiring the Police Department to accept the County ID as a valid form of identification.

Commissioner Elmgren stated that this issue would be decided administratively.

Commissioner Shuler stated he knows the State has jurisdiction over local governments but he was not certain if the County has jurisdiction over the governments in its borders.

Commissioner Elmgren replied Counties do not have authority over local governments.

Commissioner Shuler stated he agrees with Mr. Elmgren that the issue would be decided administratively, however, it would help the issue to adopt a resolution.

Commissioner Elmgren stated a resolution would help to strengthen the value of the County ID, however, without a resolution the ID would still have value.

Commissioner Shuler stated if a resolution was not passed the Police Department, or other City Departments could decide not to accept the County ID.

Commissioner Elmgren responded the Police Department has already given support for the County ID program.

Commissioner Symanns stated it would make sense to create a resolution directing City staff to accept the County ID as a form of identification.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

- Review of Annual Report Draft.
- Discuss possible topics for this coming year.

VIV. NEXT MEETING DATE

Human Relations Commission Meeting
October 27, 2014

– November 24, 2014

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.