



APPROVED

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2015
7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Benjamin Elmgren	Present
Claudia Pettit	Present
Krista Nordberg	Present
Darlene Scott	Absent
John Shuler, Chair	Present
Jennifer Symanns	Present
Sue Melke	Present
Theresa Saunders	Present
Martha Valadez	Present

II. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Elmgren moved, supported by Commissioner Valadez, to add Columbus Day under discussion items.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the item was added.

Commissioner Elmgren moved, supported by Commissioner Melke, to approve the agenda as amended.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

– August 28, 2015

Commissioner Melke stated a resident informed her that there are minutes missing from the website.

Commissioner Shuler responded the last meeting held was the August 28th meeting and the last meeting the Commission had a quorum was in April. He stated all the minutes are on the website.

The Commissioner stated there are some grammatical errors in the minutes and asked that they be amended accordingly.

Commissioner Melke stated on the fifth page, second to last paragraph it states "Commissioner Melke stated she is glad this topic is being discussed, and she was unaware of these issues occurring in Ypsilanti." She stated she did not say the second part of that sentence, and asked that it be removed.

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

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

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

— Commission comment on public participation

Commissioner Valadez stated during the last meeting the inaccessibility to public meetings was discussed. She stated the meetings are public, but if the HRC is attempting to engage the public it can be made difficult with the bureaucratic framework. She stated the ability for the Commission to engage with public is problematic, and if the goal of the Commission is cultural sensitivity. She stated because of this she proposed including in the agenda following audience participation the opportunity for the Commission to respond.

Commissioner Melke agreed.

Commissioner Elmgren asked if the Commission is unable to comment on statements made during audience participation. He stated it is his understanding the Commission is able to respond to public comment.

Commissioner Shuler stated the Commission can respond but as the Chair he has not asked for Commission response.

Commissioner Valadez said it would provide a formalized response section in the agenda. She stated a formalized section would be more impactful for the public.

Commissioner Elmgren asked if the proposal is to add an agenda item for Commission response after audience participation.

Commissioner Valadez responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Elmgren said he finds no issue with the proposal and the Commission can call the vote if it wishes.

Commissioner Shuler stated a second option is to title the agenda item "Audience Participation and Commission Action."

Commissioner Melke added Commissioner Shuler's suggestion would allow the Commission to comment in real time and not have to wait until the close of audience participation.

Commissioner Shuler stated at a Council meeting audience participation is held and after the close of that section the Mayor and Council react to the comments. He stated if a situation arises that there is a long list of speakers the Commission might not be able to address each comment individually.

Commissioner Melke stated her experience at a Council meeting is the Mayor and Council does not comment until the conclusion of audience participation. She added she prefers the option of the Commission having the ability to comment during audience participation.

Commissioner Shuler asked Council Member Murdock for clarification of Council Meeting protocol regarding response to audience participation.

Council Member Murdock responded after audience participation there is a section that the Mayor and Council may respond to public comment.

Commissioner Melke asked if that section is included in the agenda.

Council Member Murdock responded in the affirmative. He added the County Board of Commissioner has a similar structure. He said, however, Council does not always respond to comments in this section.

Commissioner Valadez stated many people who speak during audience participation will leave before they are able to hear the discussion on their remarks. She added people also do not have the opportunity to hear what the next steps will be in addressing their concerns.

Commissioner Pettit asked the title of that section.

Council Member Robb responded the title of the section is, "Remarks from the Mayor."

Commissioner Valadez asked for clarification on what the section will be titled.

Commissioner Shuler responded Commissioner Valadez suggested a separate agenda item, and he suggested one section that includes both items.

Commissioner Valadez moved, supported by Commissioner Melke, to add a separate agenda item following audience participation for Commission response.

Commissioner Saunders stated she prefers the Commission have the ability to respond to comments made during audience participation in real time. She added if it is a separate agenda item those who spoke during audience participation will still need to wait until the following section for the Commission to respond.

Commissioner Melke agreed with Commissioner Saunders and stated many times people do not wish to wait for the next section for the Commission to respond.

Commissioner Saunders added during the last Commission meeting an individual informed the Commission of issues with his property line near Eastern campus. She stated she felt bad the Commission was not able to respond to his issue.

Commissioner Melke withdrew her support of the motion.

Commissioner Valadez withdrew her motion.

Commissioner Valadez moved, supported by Commissioner Melke to amend the agenda by adding "Human Relation Commission Response" to both Audience Participation sections.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and "Human Relation Commission Response" was added to both Audience Participation section in future agendas.

— City of Ypsilanti commission application

Commissioner Valadez stated when she applied to the Commission she felt that it was a hypocrisy for her to apply when there was an issue of public accessibility to sit on a board or commission. She stated the application for Board and Commission appointment listed as a requirement the applicant needed to be a registered voter. She stated thankfully this was already been rectified and no action would be required. However, she stated it is important for to inform the public this requirement has been removed and it is important for the public to know the City is not questioning legal status or voter registration status. She stated by removing this requirement Boards and Commission seats become more available to youth that are not eighteen and not eligible to register to vote. She stated there are some Boards and Commissions that do require voter registration, and differed to Council Member Murdock for clarification.

Council Member Murdock clarified after research no source was found that required that a registered elector sit on several Boards and Commission. However, he said there are Boards and Commission bound by State Statute such

as the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals that requires members to be a registered electorate.

Commissioner Valadez added the Parks and Recreation Commission have four seats reserved for youths.

Council Member Murdock corrected Commissioner Valadez and stated the Parks and Recreation Commission reserves three seats for community youth.

Commissioner Valadez stated there has been discussion regarding lack of public participation during Human Relations Commission meetings. She said in order to create more public participation there should be an initiative, or recommendation to Council, to help promote awareness of Boards and Commissions seat availability. She concluded it was concerning to her to find out that many citizens would not be allowed to participate because they were not registered to vote.

Commissioner Elmgren stated he appreciates the comment, but said the current Mayor has been very active in recruiting people to fill many vacancies on Boards and Commissions. He stated part of that is the role of the Mayor to fill those vacancies. He added this Commission in particular has not had full membership in quite a long time.

Commissioner Melke stated she would like to see more diversity on Boards and Commissions.

Commissioner Valadez stated perhaps there is a way to propose a resolution that is more of a symbolic statement to raise awareness that the form has been changed and that the City make Boards and Commissions more inclusive and accessible.

Commissioner Nordberg asked what the current status of open seats on Boards and Commissions.

Council Member Robb stated that information is posted on the City Website.

Commissioner Valadez asked Council Member Murdock if he is aware of how many seats are vacant.

Council Member Murdock responded there are several Downtown Development Authority Board seats, three Parks and Recreation Board seats, and one Board of Ethic seat available. He stated Council receives an update from the Clerk regarding vacancies and Council could have that list updated each month. He stated the Mayor posts vacancies on her Facebook page.

Commissioner Shuler asked what department maintains the website.

Council Member Robb responded the Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Valadez asked what Council Member Robb would suggest to make greater public awareness of Board and Commission vacancies.

Council Member Robb stated the Commission may make all the rules, or suggestions it wants, but this is political and the Mayor makes all nominations. He added the most impactful thing the Commission could do is speak with the Mayor.

Council Member Murdock added Council Members have also made recommendations for nominations.

Commissioner Nordberg stated the process still requires a person complete an application. She stated it is the City's responsibility to make the public aware of these openings so that they may be filled.

Commissioner Shuler said either the Mayor or City Council will solicit individuals to fill the vacancies on Boards and Commissions.

Commissioner Melke asked if this is something that would require a formal request to the Mayor and Council to make it both more public and fill vacancies.

Commissioner Nordberg stated in order to fill vacancies the City needs to find individuals willing to apply.

Commissioner Valadez stated maybe there is an analysis that could be completed that lists the vacancies and what demographics are already represented on Boards and Commissions in order to have an understanding of who is not represented.

Commissioner Shuler asked if that information could be brought to the next meeting.

Commissioner Valadez responded in the affirmative and asked if the work could be distributed amongst the Commission.

Commissioner Symanns asked if demographic data for board members and commissioners is collected.

Council Member Robb responded no.

Commissioner Valadez asked how more diversity would be created on boards and commissions.

Council Member Robb responded the Commission would need to speak with the Mayor about soliciting more diverse members for boards and commissions.

Commissioner Pettit added the Mayor is responsible for nominating individuals for boards and commissions and ultimately the task to create more diverse membership falls to her.

Commissioner Nordberg stated she has spoken with the Mayor in the past about the recruitment of Human Relations Commission membership and asked that more diversity be added to the Commission.

Commissioner Elmgren stated in terms of direct action, the best thing to do is to have direct one-on-one communication with elected officials and vote. He said ultimately those individuals who make appointments are responsive to the electorate.

Commissioner Symanns stated Mayor Edmonds has been very active trying to fill vacant boards and commission seats.

Commissioner Melke volunteered to reach out to the Mayor to gain information about how she chooses board and commission members.

Commissioner Valadez responded she would appreciate partnering with Commissioner Melke to approach the Mayor about the topic.

Commissioner Elmgren asked if Commissioners Melke and Valadez would provide an update at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioners Melke and Valadez responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Elmgren moved, supported by Commissioner Valadez to table this item until the October 26, 2015 meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the item was tabled until the October 26, 2015 meeting.

— Community/Police relationships

Commissioner Shuler stated this is a continuation of the discussion that began during the last meeting and the joint session that was held with City Council. He stated he felt the information that was provided during the work session was very informative. He stated there is more information to be gathered but his impression is as the Chief of Police reworks policy that information will be forthcoming.

Commissioner Melke asked what gave Commissioner Shuler that impression.

Commissioner Shuler responded because that is what the Chief said he would do.

Commissioner Melke stated the Chief indicated there was information that the department is not willing to share.

Commissioner Shuler responded how he understood what the Chief said is there were certain policies that are not available to the public and the majority of the information would be available.

Commissioner Melke said the Chief made no indication of what information would not be available to the public.

Commissioner Shuler agreed and added the Chief has also not said that he won't reveal anything.

Commissioner Melke stated but at this point the only thing that has been provided is the table of contents of the general orders and nothing of substance was provided.

Commissioner Shuler responded a few general orders were provided at the work session. He said it was his understanding the current state of the policies was poorly organized. He stated the Chief informed both Council and the Commission the policies would be reworked and made into general orders. He said the Chief provided the general orders that have already been completed and would provide the remainder of the general orders as they became available. He concluded until the Chief informs the Commission that he is unwilling to share something his impression is that the information will be shared.

Commissioner Melke asked what the timeline is for this information being submitted to Council and the Commission.

Commissioner Shuler responded he is not certain of the timeline.

Commissioner Melke stated she is not referring to policies need to be revised she is referring to policies that are already complete.

Commissioner Symanns responded she believes the Police Department already shared the general orders that were completed.

Commissioner Elmgren added the Police Department provided a handful of general orders during the joint session. He stated he is not certain if the Police Department simply does not have a working set of policies regarding any issue. He stated he cannot imagine that is the truth but evidently the general orders that were given are the working set of policies for the department.

Commissioner Melke stated a great deal of information must be missing.

Commissioner Symanns responded she believes the general orders are in different states some are policies and some are procedures.

Commissioner Elmgren stated the information the department has should have been submitted to Council and the Commission during the working session.

Commissioner Symanns responded that is not what was asked for from the department.

Commissioner Elmgren stated the way he felt about the joint meeting is if the police department is not willing to disclose their policies then there should be a third party investigation. He stated he does not feel that this information should be kept from the public and he was put off that some appointed officials are flying in the face of elected officials when it comes to what information they can and cannot view. He stated that does not make for very transparent government and it is not appropriate. He said he would be in favor of an independent investigation because he does not have expertise in law enforcement but he understands there are people with that expertise and he is interested on what they might have to say.

Commissioner Valadez stated she has concerns of the timing of when the information was shared.

Commissioner Nordberg stated the Commission and Council both received policies regarding bias and professional ethics during the work session.

Commissioner Valadez stated the amount of time between the work session and the time the table of contents was provided is concerning and it seems like this process is moving quite slowly. She agreed with Commissioner Elmgren that a third party investigation would help guide the process. She said she does not want the delay in receiving information to delay the Commission from forming policies. She stated the conversation should be structured in a way to review what Campaign Zero is discussing related to current policies.

Commissioner Symanns asked what the next steps in this process are, and asked if Commissioner Shuler is aware of when the first meeting of the work group is.

Commissioner Shuler responded the work group is yet to be scheduled.

Commissioner Symanns stated she appreciates that the Commission wants the information from the Police Department in a timely manner but this is the start of the process and communications have not begun. She stated more time should be given to allow the work group to meet and for the Police Department to provide information.

Commissioner Shuler asked for clarification of a third party investigation. He added if a third party was hired to perform the investigation the HRC would need to requests a budget in order to do that which could be problematic. He stated he is not sure that a company would need to be hired to perform the investigation.

Commissioner Elmgren responded he believes a third party investigator should be hired because an independent party outside of city government would provide an unbiased report. He stated there are possible funding mechanisms to support the hiring of an investigator which the sub-committee could investigate. He said grant money is a possibility and it should be decided if this is a priority for the City.

Commissioner Symanns responded it is clear this is a priority. She said she is not against hiring a third party to perform an investigation but she does not believe that it has come to that point. She added she would still like to provide the sub-committee the chance to meet and the opportunity to communicate with the Police Department.

Commissioner Elmgren asked if Commissioner Symanns feels that she has an adequate amount of information from the Police Department to be able to engage in dialogue about police policies and procedures when the department has not yet provided those policies and procedures.

Commissioner Symanns responded she feels the department provided a fair amount of information. She stated she still has questions but for a first meeting she felt a good baseline of information was given. She added it needs to be found what can be accomplished internally.

Commissioner Elmgren stated the meeting was very informative but the meeting was held in order to discuss policy and that is not what transpired.

Commissioner Shuler asked if Commissioner Elmgren felt the information provided was needed.

Commissioner Elmgren responded he is not saying the information is not useful but it was his understanding the meeting was to discuss policies. He said he feels the Police Chief, City Attorney, and City Manager avoided discussing policy during that meeting.

Commissioner Saunders stated she thinks the information that was provided is what was asked for. She stated if there was specific information that was wanted it should have been asked for. She stated she did not appreciate that the process developed prior to the meeting was truncated and resulted in the meeting that transpired. She said that was problematic and if the process was followed it could have begun addressing the issue. She said if specific questions are asked and do not result in the information requested then that is a different issue.

Commissioner Pettit added she was confused about the meeting because sub-committee meetings were supposed to be held that would not have a quorum and instead a joint session was held that had a quorum.

Commissioner Shuler stated that was something that City Council decided to do.

Commissioner Symanns stated the process needs to be established of how this is going to be done and the next step is to have the sub-committees meet.

Commissioner Shuler disagreed the meeting was not useful. He said a strong baseline of information was provided and was all relevant. He stated there were many questions asked during that meeting the Chief answered which is why the meeting ran as long as it did. He stated during the meeting it was learned that the Police Department is working on revising its policies. He stated more information is needed in order to make decisions or move forward with an action plan. He stated this needs to be thought of as a process and not be impatient with the information.

Commissioner Valadez stated during the last meeting several Commissioners were appointed to the sub-committees and asked to bring information to this meeting. She asked if they brought that information. She agreed that the Commission needs to have the working session and it should be scheduled as soon as possible.

Commissioner Symann asked Commissioner Shuler to contact the Mayor to schedule the work session.

Commissioner Shuler responded he has not met with the local Black Lives Matter members yet and he will have that information for the work session with Council.

Commissioner Valadez stated she has corresponded with the local Black Lives Matter members and asked what their recommendations are. She said she was directed to the Campaign Zero recommendations. She stated she would like a policing accountability board formed for the local police department.

Commissioner Shuler stated Ypsilanti has an organization called Community Policing Action Council (CoPAC) that is composed of appointees from the neighborhood association. He stated CoPAC meeting are held monthly and are attended by the police. He said it might be helpful to invite CoPAC to explain what they do to the Commission. He stated there probably is some overlap of what the Commission is doing and what CoPAC already does.

Commissioner Valadez agreed it would be useful to have CoPAC speak at a Commission meeting.

Commissioner Shuler asked Commissioner Pettit an overview of what the CoPAC does.

Commissioner Pettit explained each neighborhood association brings information or concerns to share at the meeting. She stated crime statistics are also reviewed during CoPAC meetings. She stated the mission is to get information about what is happening in the neighborhoods to the police.

Commissioner Symanns stated CoPAC is more geared community policing and crime prevention. She said Commissioner Valadez is requesting the formation of a citizen review board. She added CoPAC would be useful to provide information to the sub-committees.

Commissioner Valadez stated the Sheriff Department has a community advisory committee and that is something that she would like to recommend to the City.

Commissioner Shuler stated there are two possible scenarios the City Manager or the Police Department could form an oversight committee or the Commissioner could suggest a charter amendment for another commission that would act as an oversight committee.

Commissioner Symanns stated that is an excellent recommendation to bring up at the sub-committee meeting and said an oversight committee is very common among departments across the country.

Commissioner Elmgren stated he has had correspondence with a resident regarding the process of making a complaint against the police department. He stated the resident informed him there are officers that many residents have had issues with but the complaint process is to fill out a form to submit to the attorney's office. He said the attorney's office is charged with indemnifying the City of Ypsilanti against legal action and he wonders how well the city attorney would advocate for a resident against the City.

Commissioner Melke stated she wonders how many complaints are filed in a year and how many are investigated.

Commissioner Shuler responded that is not exactly how the process works. He explained a complaint is referred to the city attorney first so the attorney may review the complaint to see if he wishes to bring legal charges. He said the case would then be given to the police chief for investigation. He said the HRC went through the complaint process with the former police chief line by line to make recommendations.

Commissioner Melke asked if that is something that the Commissioner can see.

Commissioner Shuler responded in the affirmative. He stated when the Commission reviewed the complaint process it asked about statistics and very few complaints were filed against the department.

Commissioner Elmgren requested the Commission recommend that the Police Department not be the investigating body when it involves the police.

Commissioner Valadez agreed and said that the oversight committee could investigate complaints. She added many people are afraid to call the police such as undocumented individuals. She said she met with a Native American student organization that raised concerns about cultural sensitivity and the police

department. Ms. Valadez stated the next step for the next working session is to review the police department training to see who is providing the training and at what frequency. She stated from that information recommendations can be made.

Commissioner Symanns stated typically there are two avenues for complaints: one is to file the complaint which will go through the channels of the police department and the other a citizen review board. She stated the citizen review board does not have the expertise to properly analyze certain things.

Commissioner Shuler stated the final part of the formal complaint process is the Chief of Police must provide a response to the complainant and if they are unsatisfied they can complain through another avenue with the City. He said the complainant would need to fill out another form and if the complaint is a human relations issue it is supposed to come to the Commission.

Commissioner Symanns added the City has an ethics board which is supposed to be activated for certain items. She added training is very valuable and most officers want training to understand better how to interact with people. However, the challenge is budget issues and staff levels. She added it needs to be decided as a City if cultural competency training is required every year.

Commissioner Valadez stated she sent an article about partnering with mental health professionals. She stated she would like to examine what resources are available and what creative ways there are to form partnerships in the future. She added funding much of the time dictates what a department can do for training but she wants to examine the training to ensure that the City is investing in the right training.

Commissioner Melke stated the Chief indicated that in the past there was a partnership with mental health professionals. She added the Chief might be able to provide information on what that program looked like.

Commissioner Shuler asked if Commissioner Melke was referring to a partnership agreement or a policy.

Commissioner Melke responded in the past a mental health professional would respond with the police for certain situations.

Commissioner Symanns stated there also could be a lack of funding on the side of the mental health professional.

Commissioner Pettit stated there have been drastic cuts and much of the proactive programs in community health have been cut.

Commissioner Melke stated Ypsilanti has more than its share of mentally ill people on disability. She stated they are a huge part of the population and it needs to be made sure that it is being addressed appropriately.

Commissioner Valadez stated the fact that there is not a policy in place when dealing with mental health individuals is a huge gap. She stated a policy should be formed to ensure when responding to a call involving mental health the response is humane and appropriate.

Commissioner Saunders stated the Ypsilanti Police Department is in a partnership with the County and EMU and when discussing policy they would need to be in the mix.

Commissioner Symanns stated she has mentioned that there are four departments operating in Ypsilanti but the City only has a purview over itself.

Commissioner Melke stated she is not certain how the City responds to mental health issues if it is good or bad but that policy is something that should be known.

Commissioner Saunders asked when the other departments are operating within the City's borders who rules would apply.

Commissioner Shuler responded each police agency patrols and responds in their district, they only respond if the City requests assistance. He stated if an officer is in pursuit of a criminal and they cross into the City's borders they are allowed to continue the pursuit. He said the other agencies are not coming into police Ypsilanti. He added if another agency is responding at the request of the City the City would be in command.

Commissioner Melke asked who would be in command if another agency responded and there was not an Ypsilanti officer at the scene.

Commissioner Symanns responded it is fairly standard policing and said each of those entities has jurisdiction in Ypsilanti to enforce the law. She stated normally they would not because the City has its own police department and they would rather allocate resources where they are most needed. She stated EMU's police department's jurisdiction is Eastern's campus and properties contiguous to it. She stated in order to have a force multiplier EMU's officers are also sworn in with the City. She added policing follows the chain of command.

Commissioner Melke asked who would be responsible for what other police agencies do in Ypsilanti.

Commissioner Symanns responded those agencies will follow their procedures and their policies. She added the focus should primarily be on City police and then examine what can be done with the Eastern Washtenaw County Safety Alliance.

Commissioner Shuler asked Commissioner Valadez if she had any information on the Black Lives Matter movement.

Commissioner Valadez responded she previously sent an email containing information from Campaign Zero that outlines policy changes. She stated a working session should be planned and information gathered to begin moving forward.

Commissioner Symanns stated information from the work session can be brought to the next meeting for discussion which will help to form recommendations. She asked Commissioner Shuler to contact Mayor Edmonds to schedule the working session. She stated she belongs to the Washtenaw County Bar Association and they will be offering trainings in October for 24th Annual Bias Awareness Week. The trainings involve implicit bias and the signs behind it the effects on the legal system, the 16th Annual Enhancement of Police and Public Trust, and a Bias Awareness and Inclusion Forum. She stated this is open to the public.

Commissioner Valadez asked for this information to be placed on the City's Facebook page.

Commissioner Melke added she would share it on one of the local Ypsilanti Facebook pages.

Commissioner Elmgren asked if this item needs to be revisited during the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Shuler responded this will be a running agenda item which will require a great deal of research. He stated this item will need to be researched for quite a few months before the Commission will be able to make solid recommendations.

Commissioner Valadez stated the work group should have a concrete timeline so the Commission does not lose track of where it is going. She said there are key initial steps that can be taken as well as some long term goals.

Commissioner Shuler stated he believes it would be worthwhile to examine the table of contents of the police department's policies and prioritize what policy information the Commission needs first.

Commissioner Melke stated what policies are implemented now is the information the Commission needs.

Commissioner Symanns added the members of the work group, both Commissioners and Council Members need to meet and get on the same page. She said she isn't sure that prioritizing the policies at the Commission level is something that needs to be done now.

Commissioner Shuler responded he was thinking the prioritization of policies would occur at the sub-committee level. He added the sub-committee should contact the police to request the information that has been prioritized.

Commissioner Symanns responded she is willing to do that but the work group needs to meet before prioritizations are made. She said she feels that decision should be made by a larger group and that group should request the Police Department to provide that information.

Commissioner Valadez stated the Commission should have access to the general orders that can be provided by the department and they should be requested. She added the request should include a timeline of the next working session, even if that information is not needed.

Commissioner Symanns responded that request can certainly be made.

Commissioner Pettit asked if the sub-committee was created during the last Council meeting.

Council Member Murdock responded the decision was made that any Council Member who wished to attend can.

Council Member Robb added three Council Members were appointed but the Mayor wanted to be a part of the group so it would need to be an official meeting. He recommended if the Commission wants to schedule a meeting to not talk to the Mayor and simply schedule the meeting and people will attend.

Commission Melke asked if the entire Commission could attend.

Council Member Robb responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Valadez asked if a Commissioner could be appointed to work to schedule the meeting.

Commissioner Shuler volunteered to schedule the meeting.

Commissioner Valadez asked if that meeting would be scheduled within the next two weeks.

Commissioner Symanns added she would like the meeting to be scheduled before the next regular meeting of the Commission. She stated at that meeting it can be decided what information will be requested and whether the information will be prioritized or if all policies are requested.

Commissioner Shuler responded he envisioned having this information before the working session with Council and go to that meeting with the policies. He added he does not think a work session should be held until information that is needed is gathered.

Commissioner Symanns responded it is not that she disagrees but a request for that information might be better coming from Council.

Commissioner Shuler responded he feels the Police Department would be willing to provide that information to the Commission. He said he attended the police open house and he spoke with the Chief who is very open with being contacted.

Commissioner Valadez stated in order to keep this process moving the Commission should review the documents it has including the police policy table of contents and the Campaign Zero policy outline it just needs to be compared during the working session. She said an email should be sent to Council and the Commission that lists the materials that will be reviewed and the information should be examined for gaps in the policy. She added the information is already there and recommendations would not require much more research.

Commissioner Saunders stated the recommendations should come from the list of policies that the Commission already has from the federal level.

Commissioner Shuler responded the policies from the federal level might not line up completely.

Commissioner Nordberg stated Campaign Zero has already created a policy set for the local level. She stated it is possible the City is already completing some of the suggested policies of Campaign Zero. She said there might be policies listed that the City would not want to pursue and some that would make a significant impact.

Commissioner Saunders stated she wonders if the process should begin with a list of policies that already exist and request the police department to adopt those policies or not.

Commissioner Valadez stated if the Commission requests all police policies that they are able to share and that information should be compared to what Campaign Zero suggests.

Commissioner Shuler stated he asked the Chief if the general statement of each general order could be shared with the Commission. He stated the Chief is willing to provide the general statement of the general order. He added he asked the Chief to provide as much information as possible and provide explanations of pieces that are being omitted. He stated the Commission should ask for specific information.

Commissioner Elmgren asked if it would be useful to reset the conversation. He stated the baseline of the conversation is to understand what the City is doing and this discussion is taking place because what the City is doing is not working. He said what needs to happen is to look at what organizations like Campaign Zero, Black Lives Matter, and other organizations working on issues of social justice understand what their recommendations are. He added those recommendations should be the starting point of the conversation and not the backwards policies and practices that have gotten us to the place we are now.

He said if the Police are not willing to come forward with current policies it does not matter. He said what he wants to know is how the recommendations from groups like Campaign Zero match up to current police policies.

Commissioner Nordberg responded she believes that is what the Commission has been saying.

Commissioner Shuler stated the three work streams that were created were to gather information about the Black Lives Matter which Commissioner Valadez has completed.

Commissioner Valadez responded Jeff Clark suggested the Campaign Zero policies as the recommendation.

Commissioner Shuler stated Campaign Zero's recommendations will be compared to current policies to make recommendations.

Commissioner Elmgren asked why not just submit the Campaign Zero policies and say these are the things that the Police Department should be doing. He said the Chief can answer if the department has that policy or they do not. He stated Black Lives Matter and people are dying while the Commission is having board meetings. He added the Commission should make recommendations and let that be the starting point.

Commissioner Shuler responded to be clear in the last three years not a single police officer has discharged their weapon. He said to say people are dying is a hyperbole he said people are dying across the country but not here and nothing done here is going to make another part of the country safe.

Commissioner Elmgren stated because a weapon has not been discharged does not inoculate Ypsilanti on any of these issues. He stated it happened just six miles west of the City earlier this year and it can strike in any community and the City should be proactive.

Commissioner Shuler agreed but the hyperbole that people are dying in Ypsilanti is not true.

Commissioner Symanns responded these are very complex issues and they will not be solved quickly. She stated everyone is eager to find solutions, and she understands the frustration, but it should be done in a thoughtful way.

Commissioner Nordberg added it might be found that some of the recommendations from Campaign Zero don't fit in Ypsilanti.

Commissioner Valadez stated she thinks the Commission is all in agreement that Black Lives do Matter and there is tension as a result of the amount of time but it is a bureaucratic process and it does take time. She said she understands

Commissioner Elmgrens eagerness to use Campaign Zero's recommendations but those recommendations need to be discussed during the work session.

Commissioner Melke stated during the work session it was indicated many communities' police departments have their policies online for the public to view. She stated she would like the Chief to provide an answer to why that is not the practice of the Ypsilanti Police Department.

Commissioner Symanns responded some departments do post their policies online and that practice may work for their community. She added that practice might not work in Ypsilanti and that is something that should be examined.

Commissioner Nordberg stated there can be 100 perfectly written policies that are focused on fairness and equality but those policies are administered by people. She said this process should not become confrontational and the Commission should work with the Police Department to create sound policies. She added there are things that can be changed, things that can't, and lots of room in the middle.

Commissioner Shuler stated the reason to look at these policies is to find out if there are issues that need to be addressed and at this time the Commission does not know. He stated the Chief has articulated there is a relationship problem between the police and certain parts of the community. He stated that is different than problems with excessive use of force. He stated these needs to be examined holistically and while reviewing the policies it might be found there is a lot of quality policies that can assist in creating better relationships between the force and the community.

Commissioner Symanns stated most police are not bad and they realize they are safer when there is a good relationship and cooperation with the community. She stated she would like to view this process as the police and the Commission as partners with the same goal. She stated it should be examined on how to improve and possibly change some policies or provide more training.

Commissioner Melke stated she feels the City Manager and the City Attorney set up this process as adversarial.

Commissioner Nordberg disagreed and said the process was set up by Council and the Commission. She stated the Commission should be careful about assuming peoples motivations. She added the City Attorney, City Manager, and Chief of Police came and answered questions for four hours.

Commissioner Symanns stated she feels the City Attorney and the City Manager did their job. She said there are more questions that need to be asked and what happens then is yet to be seen. She added the Commission did not do a good job of asking specific questions.

Commissioner Saunders agreed. She added there are more kids being killed at the high school than in the streets. She said when they get out of school and they have an eighth grade education there are little opportunities available to them. She stated if the issue is Black Lives Matter then more needs to be put into their education. She stated this issue is not just about policing it is about the quality of life in this community. She said quality of life includes economics, healthcare, education, and other issues and policing is simply the tip of the issue.

Commissioner Symanns stated the issue of poverty in the community is something that she wanted to discuss before the issue of Black Lives Matter issue was brought to the Commission.

Commission Shuler responded to Commissioner Melke stating he felt the City Manager was not adversarial but he was defensive. He stated he felt the Chief was as forthcoming as he could have been and answered every question asked. He said the Chief has not provided every policy that was requested but he has said on numerous occasions that he intends to.

Commissioner Melke stated the Police Chief came to the meeting with a presentation filled with useless information. She said it seemed that he was trying to fill time and make it seem as if he was very forthcoming.

Commissioner Shuler responded it has already been stated that specifics were not asked.

Commissioner Melke stated she thinks the Chief was aware of what information was wanted. She added that she believes the Chief intentionally provided information that he knew was not pertinent.

Council Member Robb stated the Commission didn't ask for any information and the Chief didn't provide the Commission with any information. He said the information the Chief provided was in direct response to an email from the Mayor. He said the Chief provided everything that was asked for by the Mayor. He said if the Commission wants more information than the Commission should formalize its requests and get it to the Chief. He added he was not happy with the presentation either because the questions that he wanted to have answered were not included.

Commissioner Valadez stated there was a question on training and that question was not answered. She said the Commission should move forward regardless of systemic issues that are causing poverty. She said the Commission was tasked with investigating what the issues are with policing. She stated the Commission needs to move forward with the next steps.

Commissioner Shuler stated the next steps are that he will schedule the working session for the next two weeks. He stated he hopes a lot of this information will have been compiled at that point so that it could be presented.

Commissioner Melke stated she would like that information enough time before the work sessions so she has time to review the material.

Commissioner Symanns stated she will contact the Chief and ask for information on policies and procedures.

Commissioner Valadez asked for a clarification of procedures that will be asked for.

Commissioner Symanns responded she won't be certain until she looks at the list but she is going to get as much information as possible.

Commissioner Valadez asked that anything listed on the table of contents that can be shared should be asked for, not just the summary. She stated she would like to see information on training and information on how the department responds to mental health issues.

Commissioner Shuler stated in order to make it the best process it is important to be careful that no one is vilified because as soon as they are they will not be forthcoming with any information.

Commissioner Melke added that should be remembered when dealing with the public also because they are angry.

Commissioner Valadez responded there will be some tension because their perspective is systematically their communities are historically oppressed and in their point-of-view the police department is setup to criminalize their own community. She said there is a tension and not everyone is going to be able to be friendly and moderate.

Commissioner Shuler stated everyone should be given the benefit of the doubt that they will be forthcoming with the information that has been requested. He said there might be some information that is sensitive and should not be shared in the public and the Commission should not view that as adversarial.

- Discrimination clause, including undocumented residents and non US residents with legal status.

Commissioner Valadez stated in working with Council Member Murdock it was found that the Discrimination Clause does include national origin, in terms of where people come from. She stated the clause could be updated and reviewed to ensure that all discrimination clauses include legal status. She stated there is a clear distinction between national origin and legal status.

Commissioner Shuler responded there are two levels of information. He said there is a paragraph statement that lists all protected classes under this ordinance and that is what most people know about it. He said the ordinance is

very long and includes a great amount of detail. He said that detail needs to be examined to understand what needs to be revised.

Commissioner Nordberg asked if it was Commissioner Valadez's opinion after reading the ordinance that undocumented people are not included.

Commissioner Valadez responded she has not read the entire ordinance but based off the paragraph that lists all the protected classes it is not listed there so she assumes it is not listed elsewhere in the ordinance.

Council Member Murdock stated the paragraph he forwarded to Commissioner Valadez included the list of protected classes the remainder of the ordinance discusses several things that are protected for the listed classes. He added the ordinance does not make any reference to immigration status.

Commissioner Shuler responded he is sure that immigration status is not included in the discrimination clause but he wants to examine the ordinance in its entirety in order to make recommendations for changes. He asked if Commissioner Valadez proposes this as a future agenda item or is it something that should be discussed now.

Commissioner Valadez asked what Council Member Murdock would propose.

Commissioner Nordberg asked if the only recommended change is to include non-legal status as a protected class under the discrimination clause.

Commissioner Valadez responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Nordberg stated she would have no issue with adding that to the clause.

Commissioner Melke asked if there is anything else missing from the ordinance.

Commissioner Shuler asked if Commissioner Valadez would bring in the details of that recommendation.

Commissioner Valadez responded the paragraph that lists all protected classes clearly does not include legal status.

Commissioner Elmgren stated some time ago the Commission passed a resolution recommending to Council an extension of protection to LGBT individuals. He suggested looking to past resolutions for format, draft a resolution and bring it to the next Commission meeting. He said once approved by the Commission the Clerk's office forwards it to Council for review.

Commissioner Elmgren asked for that item to be tabled until the next meeting.

Commissioner Shuler asked for that item to be added to the next agenda.

— Columbus Day

Commissioner Valadez stated Commissioner Nordberg sent a link to the Seattle Model. She said what Columbus Day means politically historically is problematic. She stated this community sits on former Potawatomi land and she would like to draft a resolution that Ypsilanti does not recognize Columbus Day as a holiday. She stated if possible she would like to see a Proclamation that could be delivered at the next Council Meeting.

Commissioner Nordberg asked if the City receives the day off for Columbus Day.

Deputy Clerk Hellenga replied no.

Commissioner Valadez stated it should be a proclamation submitted by the Human Relations Commission and read by the Mayor that recognizes indigenous people on Columbus Day.

Commissioner Symanns asked if this should be a resolution.

Commissioner Shuler responded that route makes sense but there should be more discussion on what would be said.

Commissioner Melke stated it should be examined what other Cities have done.

Commissioner Nordberg responded cities have executed this differently some said no to Columbus Day and others have said the day is a celebration of indigenous peoples.

Commissioner Symanns stated if the City is not acknowledging Columbus Day as an official City holiday perhaps it makes more sense in acknowledging indigenous people on that day.

Commissioner Shuler stated one city set aside a day in August for indigenous people and still have Columbus Day. He stated some communities have a large Italian population and they see Columbus Day as an Italian Heritage celebration much more so than Columbus coming to the Americas. He said the Commission should be sensitive to both sides.

Commission Valadez stated it is problematic to think of Columbus Day as an Italian Holiday when it is known that Columbus raped and enslaved people. She said this is not just an issue with native Americans in the United States it is also an issue with Latino communities.

Commissioner Nordberg stated since the holiday is not celebrated in the City it is not an issue.

Commissioner Saunders stated the issue is to declare it something else.

Commissioner Nordberg agreed.

Commissioner Symanns stated the City should be a welcoming place and the proclamation should not be hostile. She said the statement should be the City is celebrating and recognizing indigenous people.

Commissioner Shuler stated Columbus Day has no celebration in the community to his knowledge. He asked if it is being recommended that a celebration for indigenous people be planned. He asked what would be the next step after the proclamation and if a celebration is not planned than what was actually accomplished.

Commissioner Valadez stated that is an important question and is something that the indigenous people of this community need to be engaged with for next steps. She stated when she met with the Native American student organization they brought this to her attention. She said this requires a deeper conversation and will not be completed overnight. She said this should be a future agenda item allowing time for the public to comment on how they feel about the holiday.

Commissioner Shuler asked for an estimation of the size of the Native American community in Ypsilanti.

Commissioner Valadez stated she is not certain of the specific data but there is a community which holds events specific to the Native American culture.

Commissioner Melke stated the Commission needs to acknowledge where the City comes from.

Commissioner Symanns stated she does not believe that can all be accomplished before Columbus Day.

Commissioner Nordberg responded but will give the Commission time before the next Columbus Day to create an education piece and this is the opportunity to do something.

Commissioner Valadez stated the Native American student group that she spoke with informed her that they feel that their culture and history are no longer present.

Commissioner Symanns added it might be difficult to have anything for this coming Columbus Day but the Commission could begin to develop something for next year.

Commissioner Nordberg stated it might be interesting to discuss this over the next year.

Commissioner Valadez stated the Commission might want to begin with the resolution and next year hold a community gathering. She added this October 11th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Dia De La Raza will be held in Downtown Ypsilanti which is a celebration of indigenous people of Latin American.

Commissioner Symanns asked what the next steps are for this issue.

Commissioner Shuler stated one of his concerns is that the HRC not spread itself too thin. He said the Commission is already undertaking a large workload with the examination of the police force and race relations.

Commissioner Valadez stated this is a small City and feels the HRC can accomplish a lot. She stated she does not want to lose the momentum the HRC has.

Commissioner Symanns asked what Commission Valadez would like to do.

Commissioner Valadez responded proposing a resolution regarding indigenous people.

Commissioner Symanns asked if that resolution would come to the next meeting and if Commissioner Valadez is willing to draft that resolution.

Commissioner Valadez responded in the affirmative and would like to engage the community on what that resolution should look like.

Commissioner Symanns stated the rest of the Commission could do some research in the interim about the topic and provide input.

Commissioner Saunders asked when the indigenous people's day is.

Commissioner Valadez stated Columbus Day is on the October 12th and indigenous people's day in Latin America is on October 11th. She said some have suggested holding the day on the 12th in opposition.

Commissioner Symanns asked if this could be completed by email so the Mayor could make an announcement on the 12th. She said if not it loses the connection to an opposition to Columbus Day. She added she does not feel the resolution could be completed in time.

Commissioner Saunders stated she does not understand the rush.

Commissioner Melke asked if Commissioner Saunders thinks a resolution would be advantageous for indigenous people.

Commissioner Pettit explained Commissioner Saunders point is the resolution would be much after the date.

Commissioner Melke responded she understands it would be after the date but as opposed to waiting a year before it is planned.

Commissioner Symanns stated Commissioner Valadez informed the Commission she has a lot of energy to complete this resolution for the next meeting and the Commission should then decide how much time it would like to spend on the topic.

Commissioner Elmgren stated if there is something that a Commissioner is passionate about the process of drafting a resolution and bringing information forward will help to make conversations a lot more succinct, focused, and probably spend less time on the back and

forth and more time digging into the issues. He said the Commission could probably get more accomplished if it worked smarter.

Commissioner Nordberg stated it would be interesting if some of the individuals who were in support of this issue came and spoke.

Commissioner Symanns asked if Commissioner Valadez could invite some people to address the Commission about the topic.

Commissioner Nordberg stated she feels that the Commission is addressing the issues of Nathan Philips and Anthony Morgan brought to the Commissions attention during the last meeting. However, she said the issues brought to the Commission by Joseph Golder have not been addressed. She asked if there is some way the Commission would like to respond to that individual. She added it is her sense this is not an issue the HRC has any jurisdiction over, but she feels that the Commission should make a response.

Commissioner Melke asked if the Commission should request a brief explanation from the City Attorney.

Commissioner Nordberg responded the Commission should not be the fact finder for this matter for this lawsuit.

Commissioner Shuler added he does not see this as a discrimination issue.

Commissioner Valadez stated now that there is a place on the agenda for Commission response to audience participation this type of issue can be avoided in the future.

Commissioner Nordberg responded she is in agreement that the Commission Response will be helpful but there might be time the Commission is not in agreement.

Commissioner Valadez asked if Mr. Golder even made a request.

Commissioner Nordberg responded he would like to be compensated and he was asking if the Commission was the body that could help him and the answer is no.

Commissioner Shuler stated we will send a response and asked for feedback from Commission what the response should be.

Commissioner Nordberg responded there does not have to be a great deal of information just politely says that is not the purpose of the HRC.

Commissioner Elmgren asked if Mr. Golder is litigating against the City.

Council Member Murdock replied not at this time.

Commissioner Valadez asked if that letter should come from the Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Shuler responded no, the letter should come from the Commission. He said he will complete a draft and share it with Commissioner Nordberg for review and asked if there are any other Commission members that would like to see the draft before being mailed.

Commissioner Melke replied she would like to see the letter. She stated she was unhappy with the way Commission Shuler responded to Mr. Morgan's representation. She stated she understands it was what Commission Shuler chose to say but she felt it was really offensive. She asked if Commissioner Shuler always responds before speaking with the Commission.

Commissioner Shuler responded that he invited the individual to the Commission meeting to present his case. He said that individual chose not to attend.

Commissioner Valadez stated in the case of Mr. Morgan the Commission was not asked how Mr. Shuler should respond. She added the issue is what the protocol is on how to respond to individual cases.

Commissioner Symanns responded that protocol has already been formatted and now the Commission is just tying up loose ends.

Commissioner Shuler stated he will send the reply to Mr. Golder to both Commissioner Nordberg and Commissioner Melke.

Commissioner Melke stated she feels the Commission response to Mr. Golder is clear and the response to Mr. Morgan was not.

Commissioner Shuler responded the Commissioner has not responded to Mr. Morgan or Mr. Phillips since they addressed the Commission. He said when he responded to Mr. Morgan to please attend the meeting he declined the invitation. He said it is the Chairs job to set the agenda of the meeting and that is what he was trying to do.

Commissioner Melke stated that was not the problem the problem was in the subsequent emails.

Commissioner Symanns responded the emails were not with Mr. Morgan they were with Jeff Clark.

Commissioner Shuler asked Commissioner Melke to be more specific.

Commissioner Melke responded Mr. Clark cited white supremacy in his email and was clearly addressing the white power structure in society and Commissioner Shuler's response was that he was not a white supremacist and it was inappropriate.

Commissioner Shuler responded he did not feel that Mr. Clark's statements were that clear because that is not how he read them.

Commissioner Melke stated he did not but how many other people read that email and thought Commissioner Shuler was inappropriate.

Commissioner Symanns responded she felt Commissioner Shuler did a good job answering the email and that it was a difficult email to address and the exchange was between Commissioner Shuler and Mr. Clark and both of you left the conversation in good standing.

Commissioner Elmgren stated he feels there was some confusion in the email and unfortunately there is no context to an email other than words on a screen. He clarified Mr. Clark was not referencing neo-Nazis or skinheads he was speaking towards a hegemonic power structure slanted in favor of white people. He explained that is an understanding that not everyone shares and that is where the Commission came across as a little tone deaf what Mr. Clark was saying.

Commissioner Melke added she would have thought that a member of the Human Relations Commission for a number of years would recognize what Mr. Clark was referring to.

Commissioner Shuler responded what he has trying to convey to Mr. Clark is the Commission would listen to him with a fair and open ear and that no member of the Commission were white supremacists and he could come here knowing that.

Commissioner Melke stated Commissioner Shuler is missing the point and she does not want the Commission to be represented in that fashion.

Commissioner Symanns responded she does not feel that it is fair to beat Commissioner Shuler up over the matter.

Commissioner Melke replied she is not trying to do that what she is trying to say is she has an issue with the procedure. She said her issue is Commissioner Shuler responds and the Commission has no idea what is being said.

Commissioner Shuler asked if anyone contacts him with an issue he respond to that person he will bring the issue to the Commission for discussion and invite that individual to the following meeting.

Commissioner Melke responded the individual should just be invited to the next meeting.

Commissioner Nordberg replied Commissioner Shuler did invite him to the next meeting.

Commissioner Melke stated there was more content than just an invitation to the meeting.

Commissioner Symanns added she believes in the email Mr. Clark was explaining why Mr. Morgan did not feel comfortable in coming to the meeting. She stated the email included a statement about white supremacy and Commissioner Shuler, being human, misunderstood and Mr. Clark responded and clarified his statement. She said Commission Shuler responded back and thanked Mr. Clark for clarifying and that it was a positive dialogue.

Commissioner Melke responded she felt it was hostile.

Commissioner Symanns stated misunderstandings are going to happen with the topics the Human Relations Commission reviews.

Commissioner Melke replied her point is to ensure Commissioner Shuler is more cautious in his responses.

Commissioner Shuler stated perhaps what Commissioner Melke suggests is in responses to invite the individual to attend the next meeting and present the issue to the Commission and if that individual responds he does not feel comfortable attending that meeting than he should not respond back and discuss the next topic at the next meeting.

Commissioner Valadez stated she thinks it is human to misunderstand but as the Chair of the HRC should be aware but in the end the learning experience was very informative. She said the other side of that email also learned that the other side might not understand where they are coming from. She added in terms of protocol the HRC should establish a process of how it responds to people.

Commissioner Melke stated the way Commissioner Shuler should have responded is that the Commission is here to listen with an open mind.

Commissioner Shuler responded he did say that in his response to Mr. Clark and he understands he should not have included the part regarding white supremacists but he felt that Mr. Clark was implying the HRC would not provide a fair hearing of his issues.

Commissioner Elmgren responded Mr. Clark does feel the HRC would not provide a fair hearing. He explained Mr. Morgan does feel that any mechanism of government will not be able to provide an unbiased, open minded and dialogic kind of environment. He said the perspective of the movement being discussed is that there is not the climate present in the United States for that to take place.

Commissioner Symanns stated Commissioner Shuler is the Chair of the HRC and acts on the behalf of the Commission for efficiency purposes. She asked how people are going to be addressed when they come to the HRC with an issue. She stated there are a few individuals that need to be followed up with from the last meeting. She asked how a Commissioner should respond when they are contacted by a member of the public.

Commissioner Melke responded she would never have replied in the manner that Commissioner Shuler replied.

Commissioner Symanns asked if Commissioner should operate by the Chair sending everything to the Commission for approval. She added she trusts Commissioner Shuler to respond appropriately to the public.

Commissioner Melke responded she does not expect Commission Chair to send everything response to the Commission for review she simply asks that he be more cautious when responding.

Commissioner Saunders stated there is an assumption to the statement that someone would need to review responses of the Chair in order to ensure he is more cautious in his responses.

Commissioner Melke responded if it happens again Commissioner Shuler will send the Commission the email and it will know if he was not cautious in his response. She added she understands it is not realistic for the Commission to review each response before it is sent.

Commissioner Shuler responded not only is it unrealistic it also violates the Public Meetings Act. He said if the Commission is going to have a quorum discussion it must be at a noticed public meeting.

Commissioner Melke asked if the information that is being sent to the Commission is in violation of the Public Meetings Act.

Commissioner Pettit responded the Commission may not have a conversation discussing a topic that does not occur in the public.

Commissioner Shuler added the Commission cannot make a decision as a body outside of a public meeting.

Commissioner Symanns added the Commission can email information in preparation of the meeting.

Commissioner Shuler stated he did not want to respond to Mr. Golder without having discussed with the Commission on how to proceed.

Commissioner Symanns asked how if a response will be drafted for Mr. Golder.

Commissioner Shuler responded in the affirmative and said Commissioner Nordberg will review the letter.

Commissioner Symanns stated she was certain if Mr. Phillips was asking the HRC for any action or if we was just making a statement.

Commissioner Valadez asked if the Commission will respond to everyone who speaks during audience participation.

Commissioner Nordberg responded she does not believe the Commission needs to respond to each comment and that some individuals just want to be heard. She stated Mr. Golder was specifically asking for compensation.

Commissioner Symanns stated she feels that Mr. Morgan and Mr. Phillips spoke to give information to the Commission. She said she does not feel that their warrant a response at this stage.

Commissioner Melke agreed and said having the ability to respond will help.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

1. Council Member Murdock stated Joe Golder wants to hear a different version of events that happened then he has heard in meetings with the City Attorney and the City Manager. He said he and Council Member Robb have tried to resolve his issue for the past five years having come to an agreement and then Mr. Golder would back out of that agreement. He said the joint meeting between Council and the HRC was lengthy and included issues that were not the concern of the HRC but the presentation became a combination of things that Council was interested in and some of the requests go back nearly a year after Ferguson and the beginning of the Black Lives Matter movement. He said Council was also interested in getting information on the violence that occurred over the summer and other issues concerning the staffing of the police department. He said the Police Department has gone through some major changes, especially the command structure, over the past few years. He said when Council received the memo from the City Attorney that said information is not available to Council it became heated. He said there is not any policy that should be secret from the policy makers and that is Council. He said he remembers thirty years City Council adopted policies regarding the Police Department.
- Commissioner Saunders announced the Michigan Department of Education has been working on My Brother's Keeper and there will be a community meeting held in late October and she will provide more information as the meeting approaches. She explained the meeting will focus on African American young men in the City of Ypsilanti specifically.
- Commissioner Valadez stated Dia la Grasa will be held on October 11th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. which hopes to raise awareness around a Spanish radio show La Raza Latina which is an independent local community radio program held every two weeks. She said the last program the topic of discussion was domestic violence as well as how to be involved in urban farming economy. She said the show also has a youth program which is held the third Saturday of every month and the last program's topic was about growing up Latino in Ypsilanti.

Commissioner Melke asked if the programs were in English.

Commissioner Valadez responded the youth program is.

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

- Boards and Commission application process.
- Community/Police relationship discussion.
- Non-discrimination Ordinance resolution.
- Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day resolution.
- Safe Haven Community resolution recommendation.

VIV. NEXT MEETING DATE

October 26, 2015

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Nordberg moved, supported by Commissioner Melke, to adjourn the meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.