



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, April 27, 2015
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	Absent
Claudia Pettit	Present
Krista Nordberg	Present
Darlene Scott	Absent
John Shuler, Chair	Present
Jennifer Symanns	Present
Sue Melke	Present
Theresa Saunders	Absent

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Pettit moved, supported by Commissioner Symanns to approve the agenda.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

– March 23, 2015

Commissioner Melke stated on the third page of the minutes in the second paragraph a comma should be added after the word "discrimination". She added that the following paragraph reads, "what citizens or provided...", and should read "what citizens are provided..."

Commissioner Pettit moved, supported by Commissioner Symanns to approve the agenda as amended.

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

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Review of the 2014 Annual Report.

Commissioner Shuler stated he made the corrections to the Annual Report that were suggested during the January meeting. He stated, under goals, the sentence stating “accomplished in 2013” was suggested it was the incorrect year, and after further review he did decide 2013 was the appropriate year. He added the recommendation to City Council regarding same sex benefits was actually an item from the previous year.

Commissioner Symanns moved, supported by Commissioner Pettit to approve the 2014 Annual Report.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the 2014 Annual Report was approved.

Commissioner Shuler asked that the Annual Report be included in the next City Council Meeting’s Agenda.

- Presentation of Forum Topic Information.

Commissioner Nordberg stated at this time the County ID is not up and running. She said it was originally planned to be rolled out in April, but was pushed back to May. She stated the County Commission did fund a part time position to help administer this project. She stated the County Commissions resolution stated the ID would be accepted by any agency that accepted County Funds. She stated it is hoped that eventually the ID will be accepted more broadly. She added from a city standpoint she is not sure that Ypsilanti needs to do anything else for the ID.

Commissioner Shuler stated he still thinks that Council should pass a resolution that requiring all city government agencies to accept the County ID. He added the Human Relations Commission could draft that resolution for City Council.

Commissioner Nordberg stated she is not certain whether a resolution would be redundant.

Commissioner Pettit added City Council has already passed a resolution.

Commissioner Shuler responded the resolution was for support not a resolution as a directive to city staff to accept the ID.

Commissioner Symanns stated she is open to considering drafting a resolution.

Commissioner Melke asked if the initial resolution states that the city would accept the ID.

Commissioner Nordberg replied the resolution states that it supports the approval and implementation.

Commissioner Symanns stated the initial resolution states clear support.

Commissioner Pettit stated if there are issues with the implementation of the ID then perhaps a resolution should be drafted.

Commissioner Nordberg stated the overall goal is that the ID is accepted more broadly and by organizations the City would have no control over.

Commissioner Shuler stated he is certain the original resolution is a clear directive to city staff to accept the ID.

Commissioner Nordberg responded she feels that it is, but if Commissioner Shuler would like to speak with the Mayor and ask if there is a directive to staff to accept the ID.

Commissioner Melke stated there is a difference between a resolution of support and a resolution that directs staff to accept the ID.

Commissioner Nordberg stated she is not certain the ID should be brought to a public forum again and it may invite potential problems. She added why the Commission should assume that the ID will not be accepted by city staff when City Council passed a resolution of support unanimously.

Commissioner Shuler stated the resolution of support could provide sufficient authority from City Council to the City Manager to provide clear directive to staff to accept the ID.

Commissioner Melke stated she does not want to see individuals obtain the ID and have it not be accepted.

Commissioner Nordberg asked Commissioner Melke to clarify who would not accept the ID.

Commissioner Melke responded City Government.

Commissioner Shuler added the Police Department.

Commissioner Nordberg stated the Police Department supports the development and implementation the County ID.

Commissioner Symanns stated based on my experience I would expect police officers to support of the County ID.

Commissioner Nordberg stated the County Sheriff has been instrumental in the development of the County ID.

Commissioner Shuler responded the County Sheriff is not part of city staff.

Commissioner Nordberg stated Police Departments have all communicated that they are in favor of the County ID.

Commissioner Symanns asked other than in dealings with police officers what other city service require identification.

Commissioner Shuler stated he simply wants to say that the city accepts the ID.

Commissioner Nordberg replied she feels that it would create a conversation that the ID would only be accepted by city government and she wants the ID to be accepted more broadly.

Commissioner Melke stated she is a skeptic and expects that something will go wrong.

Commissioner Symanns added she is also a skeptic, but there is such widespread support for the County ID that it is not necessary for a resolution at this time.

Commissioner Shuler stated this may only need a communication to city staff that requires that the County ID be accepted.

Commissioner Melke asked if the Commission should consider holding a forum regarding how minorities feel about Ypsilanti Police.

Commissioner Shuler stated there is tension in the City regarding that issue and added that the HRC might invite COPAC and the Chief of Police to have a discussion regarding the topic.

Commissioner Symanns asked about the information regarding an accessibility study.

Commissioner Melke stated she is still compiling information on that topic. However, she found it interesting that Town Center does not have appropriate curb cuts on the sidewalk forcing people to cross in the middle of street.

Commissioner Pettit stated there is not a crosswalk if there is not a curb cut.

Commissioner Nordberg asked if the City has been contacted to see what ADA compliance issues there are in Ypsilanti.

Commissioner Melke responded that she will be contacting the city for that information.

Commissioner Symanns stated it would be helpful to have a priority list of locations in the city that have issues with access accessibility.

Commissioner Melke stated she would contact the City Manager and the Department of Public Services and asked if they should be invited to the next Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Symanns requested that information should be brought to the Commission.

Commission Shuler stated unless an official message is sent canceling a meeting the meeting will still be held as scheduled.

Commissioner Nordberg stated Felipe Reino will be presenting at Washtenaw Community College regarding work they do in the Latino Community.

- Prioritize Forum Topics.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

- County ID.
- Presentation of Forum Topic Information.
- Prioritize Forum Topics.

VIV. NEXT MEETING DATE

June 22, 2015

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:48 P.M.