



**CITY OF YPSILANTI  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, NOVEMBER 25, 2013  
7:00 P.M.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

|                              |   |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Commissioner Claudia Pettit  | P | A |
| Commissioner Arika Lycan     | P | A |
| Commissioner Krista Nordberg | P | A |
| Commissioner Glen Sard       | P | A |
| Commissioner Darlene Scott   | P | A |
| Chair John Shuler            | P | A |
| Vice Chair Jennifer Symanns  | P | A |

**III. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of Minutes from August 23, 2013  
Approval of Minutes from September 23, 2013- None  
Approval of Minutes from October 28, 2013

**VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Approval of 2014 Calendar
2. HRC Annual Report to Mayor and City Council
3. Report and discussion on upcoming public forums:
  - Hispanic/Latino forum

**VII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

January 27, 2014

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**



**CITY OF YPSILANTI  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, AUGUST 23, 2013  
7:00 P.M.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Commissioner Claudia Pettit  | Present |
| Commissioner Arika Lycan     | Absent  |
| Commissioner Krista Nordberg | Present |
| Commissioner Glen Sard       | Present |
| Commissioner Darlene Scott   | Present |
| Chair John Shuler            | Present |
| Vice Chair Jennifer Symanns  | Present |

*A quorum was present*

**III. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Vice Chair Symanns moved, supported by Commissioner Nordberg, to approve the agenda. On a voice vote the motion carried unanimously

**IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

*None*

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of minutes from July 22, 2013

Chair Shuler requested the minutes be amended to correct who moved and second 07/22 agenda approval and adjournment.

Vice Chair Symanns moved, supported by Commissioner Nordberg, to approve the minutes as amended. On a voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

**VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Disability Forum
  - Discussed the panel of guest speakers/Expectation time for presentation
  - Flyer Design
  - Invitation Distribution Methods/Locations
  - Commission Event will be added to Website
2. Motion Added
  - Chair Shuler added a motion to not have a meeting on September 23, 2013 due to the forum. Commissioner Nordberg moved, Second Commissioner Symanns. On a voice vote the motion carried unanimously.  
(No Agenda needed for September)

3. Hispanic Forum

- Commissioner Scott and Commissioner Sard reported a speaker had finally contacted the both of them. A meeting is scheduled for after Labor Day.
- Charo Ledon is still the speaker of choice for the challenges that Hispanics are facing in Washtenaw County./Awaiting response

4. October Agenda Discussion

- A Debrief for September /Finalization of plans for the Hispanic Forum

**VII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Cancelled September 23, 2013/Disability Forum

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Vice Chair Symanns moved, seconded by Commissioner Sard, to adjourn the meeting.  
On a voice vote the motion carried unanimously.



**CITY OF YPSILANTI  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, October 28 2013  
7:00 P.M.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**I. CALL TO ORDER –**

Meeting was called to order at 7:15

**II. ROLL CALL**

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Commissioner Claudia Pettit   | Absent  |
| Commissioner Arika Lycan      | Absent  |
| Commissioner Krista Nordberg  | Present |
| Commissioner Glen Sard        | Present |
| Commissioner Darlene Scott    | Absent  |
| Commissioner Benjamin Elmgren | Present |
| Chair John Shuler             | Present |
| Vice Chair Jennifer Symanns   | Present |

A quorum was present.

**III. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Vice Chair Symanns added a debrief of the Disabilities forum on September 23, 2013.

Vice Chair Symanns moved, supported by Commissioner Nordberg, to approve the agenda.

On a voice vote the motion carries.

**IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None for September

**VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Disabilities Forum Debrief
- 17 in Attendance which included five HRC Commissioners, six guest speakers, two interpreters from DEAF CAN, three Ypsilanti citizens, and James Pruett of the Ypsilanti Courier.

- Commissioners in Attendance
  - ✓ Chair John Shuler
  - ✓ Vice Chair Jennifer Symanns
  - ✓ Commissioner Glen Sard
  - ✓ Commissioner Darlene Scott
  - ✓ Commissioner Krista Nordberg
  
- Approximately 5 surveys were returned with some suggestions for future events.
- Agreed that the Dialogue was beneficial however more public participation is encouraged
- Chair Shuler discussed a more effective way of controlling the audience and the panel format. Vice Chair Symanns added that organization is the key and suggested the possible use of note cards for Q & A.
- Commissioner Sard questioned if they did enough to get the word out about the events that the Human Relations presents.
  
- 2. Latino Forum/Hispanic Forum
  - The forum's name may be a discussion point due to being all inclusive of everyone and should be presented to the panelist for approval.
  
  - Commissioner Elmgren stated that there has to be a conscious effort to remember that not all Spanish speaking families are from another country but right here in the America.
  
  - The meeting may be moved into 2014 to make sure the forum is a success overall. In January 2014 the meeting will be geared toward business so February may be more appropriate.
  
  - Commissioner Sard pointed out that it was stressed that food should be included as well as a paid skilled interpreter.
  
  - Commissioner Elmgren volunteered to create a flyer in Spanish and speak with Dos Hermanos about possibly sponsoring and getting the word out to the community about the event.
  
  - Possible discussion items for the forum:
    - ✓ D. A. C. A.
    - ✓ Snap shot of the Community from Charo Ledon

## **VII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

November 25, 2013 Agenda

- Review the draft of the end of year report
- Update the report on Forum

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Symanns moved, seconded by Commissioner Nordberg, to adjourn the meeting.

On a voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
2014 SCHEDULE  
Annual or Quarterly

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| January 27, 2014   | January 27, 2014 |
| February 24, 2014  |                  |
| March 24, 2014     |                  |
| April 28, 2014     | April 28, 2014   |
| May 26, 2014       |                  |
| June 23, 2014      |                  |
| July 28, 2014      | July 28, 2014    |
| August 25, 2014    |                  |
| September 22, 2014 |                  |
| October 27, 2014   | October 27, 2014 |
| November 24, 2014  |                  |

## **City of Ypsilanti Human Relations Commission Annual report to the Mayor and the City Council**

The members of the Human Relations Commission (HRC) submit the following report, in order to inform the Mayor and City Council of Ypsilanti, Michigan what the Commission accomplished in 2013.

### **Appointed Commissioners:**

The commission began the year composed of the following eight commissioners: Mary Louise Foley, Arika Lycan, Krista Nordberg, Claudia Pettit, Glen Sard, Darlene Scott, John Shuler, and Jennifer Symanns, with John Shuler as Chair and Jennifer Symanns as Vice Chair. When Mary Louise Foley's term expired during the year, she decided to not seek another term. Benjamin P. Elgren was appointed as commissioner on 15 October 2013. The Human Relations Commission operated 2013 with eight appointed commissioners and one vacant position. The following commissioner's terms are scheduled to expire in 2014: Jennifer Symanns, 4/5/14; Glen Sard, 10/7/14; Krista Nordberg, 12/16/2014.

### **Accomplishments of the 2012 Human Relations Commission**

#### **• Immerging Issues:**

The commission became aware of City Council's intention to discuss Resolution No. 2013-135 to instruct City staff to begin developing a policy to provide partner benefits for city employees. The HRC discussed this issue and sent a recommendation to City Council to adopt the resolution. See attachment 1.

The Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office invited representatives from the Human Relations Commission of Ypsilanti to attend the Community Connections and Communication Leadership Dialogue that took place on Wednesday, January 18, 2012. The following commissioners attended:

#### **• Goals:**

The HRC spent considerable time synthesizing and discussing projects and goals of the commission, as a continuation of goals set and accomplished in 2012. The following potential future topics of study were agreed upon as a means of achieving a continuing goal of building bridges to all parts of our community (these are presented with no order of priority or importance relative to one another):

- A. Integration of new members of the community.
- B. Youth and homelessness

- C. People with disabilities
- D. Hispanic community issues
- E. Issues of discrimination specific to youth

### **• Public Forum on People with Disabilities in Our Community**

The highlight of the year for the HRC was our public forum on People with Disabilities in our Community, held on September, 23, 2013 in City Council Chambers. We invited representatives from the Center for Independent Living, the Community Alliance, DHS-Michigan Rehabilitation Services, a Local Social Security Attorney, and Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy to participate as a discussion panel. The public was invited and the event was advertised through various media. The Flyer we posted around the city is attached to this report as attachment 2.

We had 17 in attendance including five HRC Commissioners, six guest speakers, two interpreters from DEAF CAN, three Ypsilanti citizens, and James Pruett of the Ypsilanti Courier.

The various panel members each presented information about their organizations regarding who they are, what they do, and how they are funded. They then led a lively discussion and question and answer session about issues faced by people with disabilities living in our community. The forum lasted about 90 minutes and was very well received by those in attendance.

### **• Public Forum on Latino/Hispanic Community in Ypsilanti**

The HRC is finalizing plans for a public forum on issues facing our Latino and Hispanic community in Ypsilanti. This forum is scheduled for our February 24, 2014 meeting at city hall.

### **• Goals for 2014**

The HRC will remain at the ready to address emerging issues.

Additionally, the HRC intends to plan and implement additional public forums in 2014, likely from among the list of goals identified above. Other topics may also be considered.

Attachment 1

July 23, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor Paul Schreiber/City Council Members  
From: Human Relations Commissions  
Re: Domestic Partners Benefits

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

The Ypsilanti Human Relations Commission is chartered to study patterns of discrimination within the City of Ypsilanti, and to form recommendations to City Council on such matters. As such, the Commission's mission is to enhance mutual understanding among citizens in our community and eliminate discrimination against any citizen.

In keeping with the spirit of the City's non-discrimination ordinance, the Commission wholeheartedly recommends that Ypsilanti City Council support Resolution No. 2013-135 to instruct City staff to begin developing a policy to provide partner benefits for city employees. Furthermore, we strongly recommend the City to implement a policy that treats all City employees equally, with regard to employment opportunities, and benefits, as quickly as possible.

We would like to thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Human Relations Commission

Attachment 2

**The City of Ypsilanti**  
**Human Relations Commission**  
Invites you to a public forum on  
***People with Disabilities Living in our  
Community***

Monday, September 23rd at 7:00 p.m.  
Ypsilanti City Hall- City Council Chambers  
1 South Huron St., Ypsilanti, MI

**Panel will include the following organizations:**

Center for Independent Living  
Community Alliance  
DHS-Michigan Rehabilitation Services  
Local Social Security Attorney  
Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy

***Open to All Members of the Community***

The City of Ypsilanti encourages persons with disabilities to participate and will provide necessary auxiliary aid and services, such as signers and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon two (2) days' notice to the City. Individuals requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City Clerk's Office, City of Ypsilanti, 1 S. Huron Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197, P: 734 483-1103