



MINUTES

HUMAN RELATIONS

COMMISSION Meeting

7:00 PM - Wednesday, August 14, 2019
Council Chambers

The HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Wednesday, August 14, 2019, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers.

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm.

II ROLL CALL

Commissioner Choudhuri	Present
Commissioner Fellows	Present
Commissioner Gaines	Absent
Commissioner Hagenauer	Present
Commissioner Hicks	Present
Commissioner Hunter	Absent
Commissioner Rosser	Absent

III AGENDA APPROVAL

Offered by: Commissioner Hagenauer; Seconded by Commissioner Choudhuri
On a voice vote, the agenda was approved.

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) July 10, 2019

Offered by Commissioner Choudhuri; Seconded by Commissioner Hagenauer

On a voice vote, the July 10, 2019 minutes were approved.

V AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

1. Dan Kaminsky, Chelsea Human Rights Commissioner, stated that he is interested in working with the Commission to develop a sister city program that would allow children from Chelsea and Ypsilanti to interact with one another. Mr. Kaminsky provided some ideas for events. This is in response to a community survey that listed lack of diversity, bullying, and racism as their top concerns.

After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed to add it as a discussion item for the next agenda.

VI DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Historic trauma video

Commissioner Choudhuri presented a video she created about historic trauma to the Commission. Commissioners discussed their reactions to the video. Ms. Choudhuri stated that it is important to train city leaders and teachers to use trauma-informed approaches and use positive asset searches. Studies have shown that acknowledging generational trauma can relieve some of their burden. Police officer training has also been effective. Commissioner Fellows mentioned that cultural competency for city employees was a 2018 goal of the commission.

Commissioner Hicks suggested working with local health care centers, such as Corner Health, for trauma-informed training. Ms. Choudhuri added that this video is part of a proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for a multi-year grant that would support the well-being of communities. Discussion continued about national trauma. Ms. Choudhuri made a motion to add it as a discussion item for the next meeting.

b) Strategic plan for goals and recruitment

Commissioner Choudhuri stated that she recruited four people to apply to the Human Relations Commission. Ms. Fellows suggested that she reach out to council members and the Mayor to ask about their status. She added that she is interested in recommending to Council a better process for commission applications to increase transparency.

Ms. Choudhuri suggested hiring Morgan Milner as a facilitator or find another facilitator for the strategic planning process. She will look into the cost of hiring someone locally and put together a standard proposal. Ms. Fellows stated that she is excited that the commission has moved from static to reactive in 2017 and is now structured as a proactive body.

Ms. Fellows stated that preliminary goals for the commission may include housing, recreational marijuana, and trauma-informed community programming.

c) Recreational marijuana town hall

Commissioner Fellows stated that there was a town hall last week held by Council Member Somerville about social equity. Commissioner Hagenauer stated that he has been having difficulty receiving city emails for various boards and commissions.

Council Member Somerville gave an update about the town hall regarding social equity in recreational marijuana. There is another public input session planned for September regarding racial equity. Ms. Somerville outlined some of the current state policies regarding social equity. Ms. Fellows asked why the

term social equity was used rather than racial equity. Ms. Somerville responded that the City is mirroring State terminology and industry experts to avoid a potential lawsuit. Ms. Fellows stated that she thinks it is important to call it racial equity, even if the methods cannot be based directly on race. She added she would like the Commission to be involved with these town halls.

VII SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

VIII AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

IX PROPOSED BUSINESS

X NEXT MEETING DATE

September 11, 2019

XI ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm due to lack of quorum.