



MINUTES

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION Meeting

7:00 PM - Wednesday, October 9, 2019
Council Chambers

The HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Wednesday, October 9, 2019, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers.

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

II ROLL CALL

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

III AGENDA APPROVAL

On a voice vote, the agenda was approved.

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) September 11, 2019

On a voice vote, the minutes were approved.

V AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

1. Brian Geiringer, Ward 1, stated that he appreciates and supports the HRC and it is unfortunate that the Mayor is blocking Amber's reappointment.

VI DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Strategic Planning: GARE and County Racial Equity Officer

Commissioner Fellows provided a brief update from the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) and the services the organization provides. She stated that Ana Lemler, the Racial Equity Analyst for Washtenaw County, will

be available to speak to the commission on October 17, 2019.

b) Transition Plan

Commissioner Fellows stated that the Mayor informed her that she will not be reappointed; however, Council Member Morgan added a resolution to extend her term for 60 days. She asked that other commissioners reach out to their representatives if they are in favor of the resolution. Commissioner Hagenauer stated that there are not very many commissioners who have served on the commission for over a year. Ms. Fellows suggested they continue discussion about transition planning until the special meeting when it is known if she will continue on the commission. She asked if anyone is interested in running for chair or vice chair. Commissioner Gaines suggested that Commissioner Hunter move up to chair and he would step in as vice-chair. Mr. Hunter was displeased with the decision to not reappoint Ms. Fellows and stated that the commission has done a lot of good work.

c) Commission appointments and racial equity

Commissioner Hagenauer asked about the racial breakdown on the commissions. He stated that racial equity should be built into the composition of the commissions and their activities. Commissioner Fellows stated that she spoke with Clerk Hellenga about the resolution brought forward by the HRC and will be recommending that applications are posted to the website. Commissioner Hagenauer asked if there was targeted recruitment for commission seats. Commissioners discussed the requirements to get a city charter amendment on the November ballot.

d) Council Chamber flags

Commissioner Hunter was displeased with the reasoning behind the removal of the flags. Commission discussed the decision to remove the flags.

e) Youth commissioners and voting power

Commissioner Fellows reviewed the memorandum from City Attorney John Barr explaining the reason why youth are not allowed to vote on commissions. She added that other jurisdictions were challenged for allowing youth members to vote. Commissioner Sharon asked for clarification about the term "purely advisory" and if that applies to the HRC as a purely advisory body.

VII SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Fellows provided a brief update about the Housing Affordability and Sustainability Housing Survey. She asked that commissioners share the survey. The committee will develop some recommendations to send to Council and include in the Master Plan update.

VIII AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

1. Corey suggested that they go to EMU's campus if they need signatures. She spoke in favor of more voter input.
2. Brian Geiringer, Ward 1, spoke in favor of commission appointment

transparency. He asked if the commissioners would self-report their racial identities. He spoke in favor of Commissioner Fellow's reappointment and stated that the percent of white commissioners has increased during the current mayor's tenure.

IX PROPOSED BUSINESS

1. Commissioner Hunter suggested revisiting the flyer ban.

Commissioner Fellows thanked the commissioner for all their work and is proud of everything they have done.

X NEXT MEETING DATE

- a) Special Meeting: October 17
- b) November 13, 2019

XI ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.