CITY OF YPSILANTI
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, November 13, 2019 @ 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Page

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Choudhuri
Commissioner Gaines
Commissioner Hagenauer
Commissioner Hicks
Commissioner Hunter
Commissioner Rosser
Commissioner Sharon
Commissioner Escalante Gonzales

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3 - 8 A. October 9, 17
09 Oct 2019 - Minutes
17 Oct 2019 - Minutes

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Elections

B. Historic Trauma

C. Charter Amendment

D. Kiosks and flyer ban

9 - 10 E. 2020 Meeting Schedule
2020 HRC Meeting Monthly Schedule
2020 HRC Meeting Quarterly Schedule

VII. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

IX. PROPOSED BUSINESS

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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.

MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION Meeting

6:00 PM - Thursday, October 17, 2019
Council Chambers

The HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Thursday, October 17, 2019, at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers.

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

II ROLL CALL

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

III AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Rosser, seconded by Commissioner Sharon to remove the Historic Trauma agenda item.

The agenda was approved as amended.

IV AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

Commissioner Fellows read two prepared statements from residents:

Anne Brown, Ward 2, hoped the HRC discusses goals regarding diversity and inclusion.

Shane McParland, Ward 2, requested that HRC create a resolution to form a relief fund for Ypsilanti homeless students.

1. Alexandria Shults, read a prepared statement in opposition to the Huron River Watershed Council article asking people to stop stacking rocks in the Huron River. She stated that increased diversity training and recruitment would be helpful.

Commissioner Rosser asked Ms. Shults to share the statement to include in the minutes. Commissioners Hunter and Fellows thanked Ms. Shults for her presentation.

V DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Meeting with GARE representative, Anna Lemler

GARE representative Anna Lemler provided a brief presentation about GARE and Race Forward. Commissioner Rosser asked for clarification about the price. Ms. Lemler stated it is the based on the number of employees, not including temporary. Ms. Rosser expressed interest in learning about their work with comparable cities. Commissioner Hunter asked for clarification about racial anxiety goal. Ms. Lemler stated that race is not frequently spoken about in our dominant institutions and there are many people who are not comfortable taking about race. Mr. Hunter expressed his concern with this goal.

Commissioner Sharon asked for examples of questions that are asked during training and specific training. Ms. Lemler stated that there is a racial equity action toolkit that has a variety of resources. Commissioner Fellows asked if there has been data about outcomes. Ms. Lemler stated that they are working on collecting that information. Ms. Fellows asked if the membership fees include trainings. Ms. Lemler stated that it would include discounts but not training. Ms. Fellows asked what the cost for a single day of training. Ms. Lemler stated that it would be $12,000.

The Commission discussed potential issues with racial equity training and other opportunities for strategic planning facilitators.

b) ~~Historic Trauma video~~ **(removed)**

c) Transition Plan

Commissioner Fellows stated that Council did not vote to extend her term. The Commission expressed their disapproval of that decision. Ms. Fellows discussed the Housing Affordability and Accessibility subcommittee. Commissioner Hagenauer expressed interest in getting involved with the committee.

d) Commissioner nominations: racial equity and inclusion

Commissioner Fellows stated that the resolution was passed by Council and they could continue to restructure the process. Ms. Fellows discussed the citizen nominating process with Clerk Hellenga and listed the pros and cons. Commissioner Sharon approved of the requirement to submit a nomination in person. Commission Hagenauer discussed ways to improve the recruitment process and need for specific skills on commissions.

Ms. Fellows stated that there is potential for outreach to get citizen charter amendment. Ms. Fellows asked if there are diversity goals in the hiring process.

Commissioner Rosser, seconded by Commissioner Hunter, moved that Section 3 of the Human Relations Commission objectives serve as guidance for identifying and appointing members to all commissions.

Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 3 (Choudhuri, Gaines, Hicks)

Commissioner Fellows suggested tabling the charter change discussion to the next meeting.

e) Youth commissioners and voting power

Commission discussed nomination and voting powers for youth commissioners. Commissioner Rosser discussed some recruitment strategies for youth members.

Commissioner Hagenauer, seconded by Commissioner Rosser, that the Commission would like to recognize and thank Amber Fellows for her long-term commitment to the Commission and her leadership.

Yes: 4 No: 0 Absent: 3 (Choudhuri, Gaines, Hicks) Abstain: 1 (Fellows)

VI SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Fellows stated that the Housing Affordability and Accessibility Subcommittee survey was coming to a close. They received 400 submissions and are working on analyzing the data.

Commissioner Fellows thanked everyone and listed that accomplishments and ongoing projects of the commission.

VII AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

1. Brian Geiringer, Ward 1, spoke about a concern with a resident and mentioned that the nondiscrimination ordinance may not apply to the Mayor and other people. He commended Commissioner and the commission.

VIII PROPOSED BUSINESS

a) Elections

b) Historic Trauma

c) Charter Amendment

d) Kiosks and flyer ban

IX NEXT MEETING DATE

a) November 13, 2019

X ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

CITY OF YPSILANTI
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
ONE SOUTH HURON STREET
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197
2020 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The regular meetings of the City of Ypsilanti **Human Relations Commission** for the year of 2020 will be held on the **second Wednesday of each month,** unless a holiday falls on that date. Unless otherwise indicated, meetings will start at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (first floor) at One South Huron Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Dates for 2020 meetings are as follows:

January 8th
February 12th
March 11th
April 8th
May 13th
June 10th
July 8th
August 12th
September 9th
October 14th
November 11th
December 9th

The City of Ypsilanti encourages persons with disabilities to participate and will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) services, and audios of printed materials being considered at the meeting. Individuals requiring auxiliary aids or services should provide two (2) days' notice to the City, and contact the City by writing or calling the following:

City Clerk's Office
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197-5420
(734) 483-1100

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