

1. HRC Meeting Agenda

Documents:

[4-23-18 HRC MEETING AGENDA\).PDF](#)

2. HRC Meeting Packet

Documents:

[APRIL 23 HRC MEETING PACKET.PDF](#)

Meeting Agenda

City of Ypsilanti
Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers - One South Huron St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Monday, April 23, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Jones-Darling
Commissioner Saunders
Commissioner Shuler
Commissioner Morton
Commissioner Fellows
Commissioner Gaines
Commissioner Hunter
Commissioner Krupin-Carter
Commissioner Devika Choudhuri

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 26, 2018

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Bylaws – **First Reading**
- B. Housing Equity & Discrimination
- C. Resolution No. 2018-001, requesting City Council display the LGBT Rainbow Pride Flag in Council Chambers.
- D. Resolution No. 2018-002, requesting City Council call upon the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents and Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority Board of Directors to enter into an agreement granting Eastern Michigan University students, staff, faculty and administrators 100% subsidized fixed-route transportation.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, June 25, 2018

X. ADJOURNMENT

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Full Minutes

City of Ypsilanti
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Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers - One South Huron St.
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Monday, March 26, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:23

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Jones-Darling	Present
Commissioner Saunders	Present
Commissioner Shuler	Absent
Commissioner Morton	Absent
Commissioner Fellows	Present
Commissioner Gaines	Present (arrived at 7:36, left at 9:01)
Commissioner Hunter	Present
Commissioner Krupin-Carter	Present
Commissioner Devika Choudhuri	Absent (arrived at 7:42)

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Saunders: Suggested adding a discussion of Jones-Darling's travels in the UK and their relevance to the HRC.

Hunter (second Fellows) moved to approve the agenda with the amendment. Unanimous approval. Motion carries.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 26, 2018

Saunders (second Hunter) moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Unanimous approval. Motion carries.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

Amy Schrodes, Ypsilanti: Stated that the Shelter Association director told her that 33% of the people who came to the Delonis Center during the last fiscal year gave their last zip code from Ypsilanti. Added that this indicates a large number of people in Ypsilanti seeking shelter outside of the city.

Saunders: Asked if the Ypsi Gathering Space will be open as a cooling center during the summer.

Schrodes: Responded that they want to. During the spring it may drop to two nights on the weekends, and then return to three nights during the summer. They need feedback from the community regarding what they would use. They think they have the volunteer space to continue as they have been.

Hunter: Asked if the city uses mailing for surveys.

Jones-Darling: Responded he can ask, but it may be expensive.

Krupin-Carter: Added that people coming to the Gathering Space may not have permanent mailing addresses.

Hunter: Added that people don't always have access to the Internet, so an email blast or social media campaign has drawbacks too.

Schrodes: Stated that at the Mission House yesterday, she learned of a Pizza in the Park event every Friday night in Ann Arbor.

Fellows: Stated that surveying in YGS space could be powerful. Added that people she knows impacted by houselessness have heard of the YGS, but just haven't been there yet. Thinks that more and new people will come by during the summer.

Schrodes: Stated that news of the YGS seems to be spreading best via word of mouth, especially at the bus station. They're looking into getting grants to putting an ad at the bus station. The Riverside Arts Center is also considering making YGS a project of theirs, which would open up more grant opportunities. Asked HRC members to keep grants in mind that could be useful to the YGS. Added that they have received some pushback about using millage funding for the YGS.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion of Commissioner Jones-Darling's travels through Europe as they relate to the HRC

Jones-Darling: Stated that the notion of the police in Ireland and the UK is different than in the US. The Irish national police force have very set standards for what they can and cannot do. They all wear body cameras. Their police officers are very visible to everyone. Cop cars are painted to be very easily located. In their interactions with people, they usually have two or more officers together. They do not carry weapons other than a baton placed behind their back and sometimes pepper spray. It is very rare for police to carry heavy weapons. At night, police are seen consistently walking in pairs in the open. Generally, they tried to move away from pedestrians, instead of walking close to them. They were made to be publically presentable and approachable. They seemed to have more of a community base presence. Shared of an experience of witnessing two officers chatting with two homeless individuals over coffee out in the street late at night. He observed a genuine care from the officers. On the city's

police website, he noticed that a) they emphasize the approachability and friendliness of the police and b) that officers receive specific training on dealing with those with mental health issues.

Hunter: Stated that the US is a colony of the UK and the US police force seems to still act like it is part of a colonizing force.

Jones-Darling: Stated that he thinks the British learned more regarding coercion from their lessons with Ireland than the US has.

Choudhuri: Responded that she thinks the Northern Irish would disagree because of their experience of oppression from the British.

Hunter: Stated that police are here to maintain colonialism and colonialists mindset.

Gaines: Asked how we can get this type of training here in US police forces.

Jones-Darling: Stated that the British police looked much more like US police: they wore dark uniforms, many carried weapons. However, they still seemed more approachable than US officers.

Krupin-Carter: Stated that she thinks approachability stems from training.

Gaines: Added that Jones-Darling's feelings that UK's and Irish police force are more approachable is meaningful. Added that being a black man in Ypsilanti makes him believe YPS needs training on being visible and approachable.

Choudhuri: Stated that she does not think that such training is perfectly transferable because of a different cultural context. There is a way in which people are not as afraid of each other [in Ireland, the UK] as in the US.

Jones-Darling: Stated that the sense of safety was provided on many levels, including the architecture and communication between individuals. He doesn't think the bulk of the things the Irish police force learned could not be transferred to the US police force.

Hunter: Asked if the proposal is to use Irish police techniques here in Ypsi.

Jones-Darling: Responded absolutely not.

Fellows: Asked if we are just discussing the softer side of policing. Added that a more relevant is the topic of community policing. Ypsi politicians are talking a lot right now about how to use the public safety millage, and many, if probed, will discuss community policing.

Jones-Darling: Stated that a few weeks ago he was at the YTC and saw an officer get out of his cruiser, which he rarely sees, but the cop went into the YTC to arrest a young man. Thinks the HRC should bring in the police chief and talk with him about these issues.

Hunter: Questioned whether they would have a productive dialogue with and get straight answers from the police chief.

Krupin-Carter: Stated that at her school there was a public discussion with the police chief, and she thinks based on that he would give the best information he can if he came to a HRC meeting.

Hunter: Questioned Krupin-Carter's assumptions about the police chief.

Gaines: Stated that if the HRC is not discussing the systematic and root levels of these issues, then it is a waste of time talking with the police chief.

Hunter: Asked if we are looking for reform or transition.

Gaines: Responded he thinks transition.

Fellows: Stated that she is hearing a lot of talk about community policing, so this body could put forward recommendations for such changes in the community, especially because it is an election year.

Jones-Darling: Stated that he thinks abolishing the Ypsilanti Police Department will most likely never happen. Therefore, training is a necessary thing for Ypsi police. The three police forces that come into Ypsi are very different in their practices. The EMU police makes it a point to enact methods of community policing in everything they do.

Hunter: Asked how cops are motivated to interrogate themselves.

Jones-Darling: Responded that he has seen better police departments patrol the city than YPD. He has seen EMU PD help jump civilian car batteries and change tires on their shifts. That can and should be the standard of service and civility for our city's PD.

Hunter: Asked if that should be the standard for an entire city's police practice, especially when EMU and the city have different needs.

Gaines: Stated that he agrees but it still goes back to the foundation of the training. He thinks the EMU has different training because students have parents paying money for them to go there, so it's a money thing. The approach is different on the south side of Ypsi because they see a bunch of n-words. Thinks it is very possible to adapt different trainings from different departments and cultures to YPD.

Krupin-Carter: Stated she thinks this comes down to cultural competency training. Thinks that this is a step in the right direction, and it is something this commission can do.

Hunter: Stated they could look into elevating the amount of Ypsi police from the community.

Fellows: Responded that cannot be mandated.

Gaines: Asked if we are training to transition or cater. Stated the cops he knows cater to black young men because of the way the world is. Overall, we are trying to change and transition the whole city.

Hunter: Stated that the overreaction by the cops is what they are really trying to address now.

Jones-Darling: Stated that US police are trained to fear the people they serve, rather than serve them.

Hunter: Stated that prisons, in many ways, also employ police, so we need to have a frank conversation about the school to prison pipeline.

Choudhuri: Stated that this could pull into cultural competency training.

Gaines: Responded that cultural competency seems like it has already been done in America. Ultimately, thinks we need to do something and move it forward.

Hunter: Stated that there is a difference between changing the system and upgrading the system. The later would look more like police being friendlier. The reality is that the police is still a fundamentally a white supremacist organization, which is why one doesn't see a lot of black female cops.

Choudhuri: Added that doing anything just on the police helps, because it doesn't include the recipients of their services—the community.

Hunter: Stated that he thinks they could look at other models free of colonial America, for example, communities of native people whose legacies of governance were much more humane, more nuanced and less punitive.

Jones-Darling: Stated that he wants to understand how people in the police force see their institution.

Hunter: Asked if Jones-Darling has gone to jail.

Jones-Darling: Responded that he has not. He has seen arrests be made. One thing they could gain from having the police chief here is seeing how the chief sees the institution. If the leader of the department isn't willing to look at change, change will not happen.

Gaines: Disagreed with Jones-Darling. Thinks that masses of people can demand things of leaders.

Krupin-Carter: Agreed with Sam, that change comes from the top.

Fellows: Stated that she is interested in systemic change. Shared some examples of what it would take to dismantle the police: basic income for all, decriminalize all drugs, expand social work, universalize health care and mental health care, legalize and destigmatize sex work, revamp education systems, housing for all, and intercommunity support. Shared that she was recently in a dangerous situation, and she used her training around mediation and she was able to make the situation safer and help the other

person that made her feel unsafe get to a hospitable and receive help. Her own hope is to discuss with people in power about reframing the function of the police force. Thinks that the idea of a 'national standard' needs to be reassessed. Wants real numbers and data showing why more police is better.

Hunter: Added that the only reason City Chambers has a Black Lives Matters sign on the wall is because cops keep killing black people.

Jones-Darling: Stated that Ypsilanti Police Force have a high turnover rate, which can be a benefit if the HRC wants to work towards recommendations for police force trainings.

Hunter: Questioned how good it is for one's mental health to be a cop because of the antagonistic relationships with civilians one is asked to maintain. Wondered if there is research on this.

Jones-Darling: Asked what commissioners would be interested in having the police chief come to an HRC meeting. [Hunter, Choudhuri, Krupin-Carter, and Gaines raised their hands.] Stated that will be happening.

B. Housing/Disability Discrimination Case

Jones-Darling: Gave the background to the situation. The city issued a citation to a woman who possess for potbellied pigs as doctor recommended emotional support animals. A judge told her that she could keep one of the four pigs. The HRC is not barred from giving the city manager advice. He is concerned that the city could have handled it better, and the woman could have filed a federal suit under the Federal Disabilities Act. Waiting on a response the city attorney.

C. Bylaws (Sub-Committee report back and Second Reading)

Fellows: Stated they are not ready to vote on bylaws. She and Commissioner Shuler worked on the bylaws worked on the bylaws since the last meeting. Thinks one more subcommittee meeting with Shuler, Choudhuri and any others will be enough to then bring it to a HRC meeting.

D. Commissioner Morton

Jones-Darling: Stated that he received a message from Morton stating her intent to resign from the HRC. The HRC can a) wait for her to resign, or b) ask Council to officially remove her.

Choudhuri: Suggested waiting till the bylaws are finished to take any action.

Fellows: Agreed with Choudhuri that no recommendation should be taken yet.

E. Discussion of a study of the history of property ownership and urban renewal in Ypsilanti

Hunter: Suggested that this item go on the next agenda.

F. Follow up about the spotting of ICE agents in Ypsilanti

Amy Schrodes (audience member): Stated that WICIR shared about

Fellows: Stated that it was one of the largest ICE pickups in the last ten years, with 14-16 people. WICIR (Washtenaw Interfaith Council for Immigrant Rights) began as an organization because of a large ICE pick up ten years ago.

Hunter: Asked if ICE alerts local law enforcement.

Jones-Darling: Stated not anymore, but if they alert anyone, it would be the state police because the local and county police around here have told ICE to bug off.

Hunter: Asked if in the case, the ICE has the wrong person

Choudhuri: Stated that according to the latest Supreme Court, ICE can hold someone indefinitely without cause.

Hunter: Stated that this goes beyond being jerks, but is more like laissez faire terrorism. Asked what is in the HRC's power to do.

Fellows: Stated that taking the lead from WICIR would be a good place to start. Asked Gaines to speak to Chuck about putting the Immigration Forum video online.

Gaines: Strongly apologized to the commission for not doing that.

Krupin-Carter: Suggested having a WICIR member come to the HRC and give advice.

Fellows: Responded that WICIR has come to the HRC before. Suggested that HRC members reach out to WICIR as individuals.

Hunter: Asked if anyone has seen other ICE happenings since the last sighting.

Choudhuri: Stated that one of the drawbacks of the city and county saying they will not work with ICE is that the city and county do not get much or any data about ICE's happenings.

Hunter: Asked if the HRC engaged the YPD about providing some intel.

Jones-Darling: Responded that he doesn't think ICE would work with anyone in Washtenaw and Wayne counties.

Choudhuri: Stated that Homeland Security in Detroit is very active.

Hunter: Asked if anyone in the last ten years has been deported to Canada.

Jones-Darling: Stated that it does happen, but it is significantly less communicated. ICE is awful to everyone.

Choudhuri: Added that the consequences of being deported to Canada is vastly different.

Fellows: Stated that there is privileged undocumented peoples in the US. Stated that she knows undocumented people from Britain in the US.

Jones-Darling: Asked if members would be interested in having Police Chief Bob Hayes from the EMU PD to the HRC.

Hunter: Suggested Jerry Clayton, County Sheriff.

Choudhuri: Suggested Derek Jackson, with Washtenaw County.

Gaines: Suggested Kathy Wyatt, Derek Jackson, Marvin Gundy, and Jerry Clayton.

Choudhuri: Asked what time with these people could be productive.

Gaines: Suggested that the HRC first have the research in order before bringing any police members to the HRC so that they do more than simply ask questions.

Choudhuri: Asked if the purpose would be to ask them questions or to present to them.

Jones-Darling: Responded that he wants police to present to the HRC about the topics we want to discuss, namely community policing.

Gaines: Suggested Jones-Darling reach out to a police force liaison first.

Jones-Darling: Responded that if HRC members shared ideas about what they want to discuss, he could then take those ideas to the police and tell them that these are the issues the HRC wants to discuss with you.

Gaines: Suggested the topics of body cams.

Hunter: Suggested the topic of the millage and how it is used.

Fellows: Suggested making a timeline for this endeavor.

Choudhuri: Suggested that we ask police to share what they think are the biggest problems regarding policing. If the HRC invites them, it has to be connected to the HRC's work.

Gaines: Thinks that we could be more approachable in how we invite the police to the HRC.

Choudhuri: Stated that she would want the police force to come with their best answers, too.

Gaines: Suggested merging this idea with the Community Basketball Game he is planning between the police force and Ypsi residents.

Jones-Darling: Stated his concern with that is that the HRC is trying to get information from those who have information, which generally is not a patrol officer.

Gaines: Added that the purpose is to not be too adversarial and take a different approach.

Choudhuri: Stated that she thinks it is worth trying.

Fellows: Stated she is excited Gaines is organizing a community basketball game.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

Josephina Hicks, Ypsilanti, EMU student: Asked Hunter what he sees as the different needs for the police forces on EMU campus and general Ypsi citizenry.

Hunter: Responded that the student population needs increased protection in some respects, particularly with sexual assault and robbery. Issues of inadequate housing and education are often the causes of increased policing outside of campus, which is different, usually, than on campus.

Josephine Hicks: Stated she believes there are a lot of issues concerning houselessness. Asked Hunter to explain what type of crime he means.

Hunter: Responded it is vague because he doesn't buy into the information that there is increased crime in a lot of areas off campus, but rather it is just a stereotype.

Josephine Hicks: Stated she thinks a lot of the things that happens on campus relate to what happens off campus. Thinks that looking at how EMU's police handle issues on campus is a really good place to start for looking at how to change things off campus. Stated that looking at pre-colonial communities could ignore the historical context that resulted in the government systems of the past.

Hunter: Agreed with Hicks. His connection with police practices in pre-colonial America was meant to address the idea that just because something occurred in the past does not mean it is outdated or primitive.

Josephine Hicks: Agreed with Hunter. Thanked the HRC.

Jones-Darling: Noted that he and Josephine Hicks work as Resident Advisors at EMU. Stated that the YPD is much more authoritarian than the EMU PD.

Choudhuri: Stated that she thinks that is a result of training of all the units on campus, particularly cultural competency.

Jones-Darling: Added that he knows Ypsi residents who would rather call the EMU PD than the YPD.

Fellows: Stated that she has seen the EMU police be more community minded. Contrasted this with when she reached out to Chief Hayes regarding the Immigration Forum, he did not seem to understand why their needed to be one. Added that Amy Schrodes sent a comment she wants read for public comment: "The Pizza in the Park event is at Liberty Plaza in Ann Arbor every Friday night."

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

Jones-Darling: Stated items D and B will be kept for the next meeting.

Fellows: Proposed an update from the Planning Commission Master Plan subcommittee.

Jones-Darling: Stated it would be helpful to talk with the HRC of Ann Arbor about housing affordability and accessibility, particularly on how the problems in Ann Arbor are creating problems in Ypsi and then the county.

Fellows: Agreed that a joint meeting would be beneficial. Asked if the HRC audio minutes could be uploaded to the website.

Seth Torkelson-Regan, secretary: Responded he will ask Andrew again and include Fellows on those emails.

Hunter: Stated there is a City Council budget meeting at the end of April.

Jones-Darling: Stated that the HRC should have submitted its budget needs pronto.

Fellows: Stated that the Planning Commission subcommittee submitted a request from City County for \$100,000

Hunter: Suggested having a town hall before the next Council Budget work session.

Choudhuri: Suggested that in a recommendation we strongly suggest a town hall be held by City Council.

Jones-Darling: Stated he thinks the best course of action would be for City Council to conduct a meeting for budget priorities for FY19 and make that very clear that they have to.

Hunter: Stated that public comment is a suggestion box. There has to be an active display of information for the decisions being made, then time for that info to be digested by the public, and then the public be allowed to speak their piece.

Fellows: Asked if Hunter's idea is to tap the staff to put together what the resource allocations are looking like now. Supposedly it is online.

Hunter: Added that a lot of our citizens do not have access to the Internet.

Choudhuri: Added that such information should be disseminated at church services and other community events.

Saunders: Asked what we are asking for.

Fellows: Asked how this town hall would relate to the work sessions.

Saunders: Responded that the work sessions are designed to finalize the budget.

Fellows: Supported the motion, but believes it will not be supported by Council. Suggested someone from the HRC go to the Council meeting when this proposal is brought up in order to explain why we have proposed it.

Krupin-Carter: Asked why public comment is not enough.

Saunders: Responded because public comment assumes one already knows what is in the budget.

Fellows: Added that public comment also takes place two to three hours into Council meetings.

Hunter (second Saunders) moved to recommend to council that they conduct a town hall with an active and concerted effort to inform the Ypsilanti City community about the budget priorities for FY 2019 before the April 2018 budget work sessions and receive public feedback. Unanimous approval (5 yes, 0 no). Motion carries

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, April 23, 2018

X. ADJOURNMENT: 9:22

Fellows (second Choudhuri) moved to adjourn. Unanimous approval. Motion carries.



Resolution No. 2018-001
April 23, 2018

Whereas, The City of Ypsilanti is a diverse and wide-ranging community,

Whereas, Citizens of the City of Ypsilanti acknowledge our joint responsible to improve upon the experiences of our past and promote diversity specifically among our LGBTQIA+ Community,

Whereas, Citizens of Ypsilanti whose identities fall under the LGBTQIA+ are at increased risk of economic, social, and political harm,

Whereas, City Council has set a precedent of supporting unequivocally the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community in our society,

Be it resolved, that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti authorizes the display of LGBT Rainbow Pride in the Ypsilanti City Hall Council Chambers.

OFFERED BY: _____

SUPPORTED BY: _____

YES: NO: ABSENT: VOTE:

