

1. Human Relations Commission Special Meeting Agenda

Documents:

[12-3-18 HRC MEETING AGENDA.PDF](#)

2. Human Relations Commission Special Meeting Packet

Documents:

[DECEMBER 3, 2018 HRC SPECIAL MEETING PACKET.PDF](#)



Meeting Agenda

City of Ypsilanti Human Relations Commission Special Meeting

EMU Student Center – 900 Oakwood St. Room 320
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Monday, December 3, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Jones-Darling
Commissioner Fellows
Commissioner Gaines
Commissioner Hunter
Commissioner Devika Choudhuri
Commissioner Avonte Browning
Commissioner Josephine Hicks

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. October 29, 2018
- B. November 9, 2018
- C. November 26, 2018

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Approval of Regular Meeting Schedule for 2019
- Public Kiosk Discussion
- Commissioner Attendances
- Anything properly before the Commission

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: TBA

X. ADJOURNMENT



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VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: TBA

X. ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2018
7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Browning	Absent
Commissioner Choudhuri	Present
Commissioner Fellows	Present
Commissioner Gaines	Absent
Commissioner Hicks	Present
Commissioner Hunter	Present
Commissioner Jones-Darling	Present
Commissioner Saunders	Present
Commissioner Shuler	Present

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Saunders moved, seconded by Commissioner Choudhuri to approve the agenda.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the agenda was approved as submitted.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 24, 2018

Commissioner Choudhuri moved, seconded by Commissioner Gaines to approve the minutes.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the minutes were approved as submitted.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Non-discrimination Ordinance Complaint Form (NDO Form)

Commissioner Jones-Darling indicated that a good reference in revising the Non-

discrimination Ordinance is the Police Complaint Form, which he produced for reference.
Commissioner Shuler arrived at 7:14 p.m.

Commissioner Jones-Darling indicated that the NDO Form would initiate the complaint process. In response to query by Commissioner Fellows, Commissioner Jones-Darling reviewed the complaint process by reading from the Non-discrimination Ordinance.

Commissioner Jones-Darling stated that the Commission has administrative authority over the ordinance and could add a page to NDO Form in order to ensure that justice is served. Addressing concern of Commissioner Fellows, Commissioner Jones-Darling indicated that the Commission could invite the City Attorney to the next meeting for further review of the NDO Form. Commissioner Fellows indicated that she could reach out to contacts from the Fair Housing Commission, Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission and Michigan Real Property Program for insight. Commissioner Shuler added that the City Manager and City Attorney could attend the next meeting to review and explain the process for enforcing and receiving complaints.

Commissioner Hunter exited the meeting at 7:57 p.m.
Commissioner Hunter entered the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Commissioner Jones-Darling closed the discussion at 8:00 p.m.

Commissioner Fellows moved, seconded by Commissioner Choudhuri to suspend the rules to amend the agenda to add the following: follow up on building public input process; thank you letter to REDY; and update regarding Tenant's Rights Handbook.
Approved: Yes – 7; No – 0 (Absent: Gaines)

- Public Input Process

Commissioner Hunter stated that he is working on proposals. Commissioner Fellows indicated that if the Commission were to make recommendations for the public input process, it would be for all City matters.

Commissioner Saunders exited the meeting at 8:08 p.m.
Commissioner Saunders entered the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Commissioner Fellows updated the Commission regarding kiosks, noting that the Chair of the Planning Commission is supportive of the initiative. Commissioner Hunter indicated that he will reach out to the City Manager regarding public input and city output processes.

- Thank you letter to REDY

Commissioner Hunter read a proposed thank you letter aloud to the Commission.

Commissioner Shuler moved, seconded by Commissioner Hicks that the letter be forwarded to the City Clerk for forwarding on City letterhead on behalf of the Commission.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the Chairman directed the Commission Secretary to place the letter on City letterhead and forward to REDY on behalf of the Commission.

– Tenant's Rights Handbook

Commissioner Jones-Darling reported that the City Council passed a tenant's rights amendment concerning new landlord obligations and punishable by fine under civil infraction. Commissioner Jones-Darling requested that the Clerk's office report back as to whether Landlords have been notified of the new policy.

As a matter of housekeeping, Commissioner Jones-Darling indicated that pursuant to Article 8 Sections C and D, the Commission Secretary shall verify with City Council that Commissioners Browning and Gaines have reached their unexcused absence quota and must therefore show cause or the Commission will make a recommendation to decommission them, first reporting back to Commissioner Jones-Darling.

Commissioner Jones-Darling noted that the Transit Authority has shown interest in increasing the transit times on Route 4 in January which is still open for public comment. In response to concern by Commissioner Hunter, Commissioner Jones-Darling indicated that concerns regarding transfer fees should be brought before the Ypsilanti Board Representative.

Commissioner Saunders stated that she would like the names of the Commissioners listed consistently on the agendas and minutes, and Commissioner Hicks asked that they be listed alphabetically.

Commissioner Fellows exited the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

None.

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

- A. Public Input
- B. Non-discrimination Ordinance Complaint Form
- C. Tenant's rights
- D. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration/Community Involvement
- E. Citywide gender neutral wording recommendation

Commissioner Shuler noted an error in the September 24, 2018, minutes, noting he was not present at the last meeting and therefore did not make the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jones-Darling directed the Commission Secretary to make a note to address the error with the City Clerk and make the appropriate correction. Commissioner Shuler requested that the minutes and agenda are submitted to the Commission strictly in Adobe or Word formats. Commissioner Jones-Darling noted that by City Charter, the Commission Secretary should have the proper software for duties related to this Commission.

IX NEXT MEETING DATE: November 26, 2018

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 9:04 p.m.

Meeting Agenda

**City of Ypsilanti
Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers - One South Huron St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Monday, November 8, 2018, 7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Jones-Darling	Present
Commissioner Saunders	Present
Commissioner Shuler	Present
Commissioner Fellows	Present
Commissioner Gaines	Present
Commissioner Hunter	Absent
Commissioner Devika Choudhuri	Absent
Commissioner Avonte Browning	Absent
Commissioner Josephine Hicks	Present

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. November 8, 2018

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

1. Krista, Ypsilanti Resident, stated she is the woman Commissioner Gaines was referring to in his comments. She feels that she was sexual harassed by Commissioner Gaines. The things Commissioner Gaines said about the LGBT Community were offensive and borderline violate rights. She will not settle for someone that should not be looked up to as a member of this Commission. There needs to be a better expectation for behavior.
2. Nathanael Romero, Ward 3, stated there were a number of issues being discussed on the Ypsilanti Area discussion board, and several good points were made. He has been a supporter of the HRC for some time including Commissioner Gaines, Commissioner Jones-Darling, and Commissioner Fellows. It is disappointing for him to see that this has happened. It is concerning that a hearing is being held to discuss comments made by a Commissioner on social media. He does not agree with what Commissioner Gaines said but unseating a member based on comments on social media sets a bad precedent.
3. Council Member Lois Richardson, stated she hoped after the response from the City Attorney and City Manager that this meeting would have been canceled. She listened to the video and the only people who could have been offended by Commissioner Gaines comments is the African American community, and she is not offended. What she heard was a young man full of

frustration and pain. Unfortunately, he expressed himself on social media to the black community. She agreed with some things Commissioner Gaines said and disagreed with some things he said, but the comments were made to the black community. Once she heard of the comments she asked the City Attorney for an opinion. The City Attorney provided a memo indicating Commissioner Gaines was exercising his right to free speech.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

— On Conduct of a Commissioner

Commissioner Jones-Darling concurs with the City Manager that there was not a violation of the City Ordinance. Commissioner Gaines stated if both the City Attorney and the City Manager have stated the charge be dismissed what is left to discuss. Commissioner Shuler stated the recommendation was to dismiss the charge, however, it is yet to be dismissed.

Commissioner Shuler asked for an overview of the complaint. Commissioner Jones-Darling read the complaint allowed.

Commissioner Saunders stated a rendering has been made by the City Attorney and City Manager, and she is not certain if this hearing is to challenge that recommendation. Commissioner Jones-Darling responded he is not certain what needs to be discussed on the complaint. Ms. Saunders replied than the complaint needs to be dismissed. Commissioner Gaines stated he would still like to explain his side of the story. Commissioner Jones-Darling replied Commissioner Gaines may speak towards the complaint forwarded to the Commission.

Commissioner Saunders moved, seconded by Commissioner Fellows to dismiss the charges.

Commissioner Hicks stated she would like to have clarification to why this is being dismissed. Commissioner Gaines replied he did not violate the Non-Discrimination Ordinance. Commissioner Fellows added as explained by Commissioner Saunders both the City Manager and City Attorney reviewed the complaint and have come to the complaint there is no probable cause, it is freedom of speech, and should be dismissed. Ms. Fellows concurred with the recommended action.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the complaint has been dismissed.

Commissioner Jones-Darling stated he prepared a resolution to remove Commissioner Gaines for nonfeasance and misfeasance of office. Commissioner Saunders objected based on the Commission only receiving this resolution.

Commissioner Jones-Darling passed the gavel to Vice-Chair Fellows.

Without support the motion fails.

Commissioner Gaines asked if the resolution is based on absences.

Commissioner Jones-Darling distributed comments made to the community by Commissioner Gaines to the Commission. He believes the comments exhibit nonfeasance and misfeasance in addition and is prepared to play the video of Mr. Gaines in its entirety. Commissioner Gaines asked what the need is to play the video if the charges have been dismissed. Commissioner Shuler responded the complaint was the Non-Discrimination Ordinance was violated, this is to review grounds for dismissal. Commissioner Jones-Darling added this is in

regards to conduct. Commissioner Gaines suggested this is a waste of time, and that Commissioner Jones-Darling is simply searching for ways to remove him from the commission.

Commissioner Amber Fellows object to the discussion of this resolution, and the meeting should not continue in this manner.

Commissioner Fellows objected to the continuation of this discussion.

Commissioner Shuler recommended the Commission review the claims during this meeting, any further action be tabled until the next meeting. Commissioner Gaines stated he views this as a waste of time.

Commissioner Jones-Darling moved, seconded by Commissioner Hicks to name Commissioner Shuler as presiding officer in this meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and Commissioner Shuler was named presiding officer.

Commissioner Fellows stated the meeting should not be continuing in this manner. Both the City Attorney and the City Manager were thorough in their memorandums that within an individual's First Amendment Rights to state their opinion regardless if she agrees with the statement. She believes the Commission is trying to make an example of Commissioner Gaines, and a precedent; of decommissioning an individual based on what was said on social media. This is not the right setting to discuss this matter, and is disappointed to see this Commission function in this manner.

Commissioner Jones-Darling moved, seconded by Commissioner Gaines to recommend to City Council Commissioner Ka'Ron Gaines by removed from office based on malfeasance and misfeasance.

Commissioner Gaines stated his comments regarding the LGBT community, coupled with death and incarceration rates of young African Americans are depopulating the African American Community. If African Americans choose to participate in the LGBT community in furthers depopulation. His nephew is transgender and he cares deeply about him, and supports him. A black man cannot say what he wants, without it being taken out of context. He feels he is being wrongly accused based on a misunderstanding of his comments. He apologize if he hurt anyone who identifies with the within the LGBT community. He does not understand why the Commission is still discussing this, and it all began with him defending his brother. This seems simply as an attempt to remove a black man from a position of power in the city. He feels like there is a hidden agenda, especially since both the City Manager and City Attorney have said these charges should be dismissed.

Commissioner Gaines stated the Chair of this commission while identifying as the Chair of the HRC asked the community not to vote for DaQuann Harrison. He further explained the charges against him.

Commissioner Jones-Darling stated he called this meeting and his parents are African American and he identifies as queer. When his community is attacked by saying the existence of the LGBT community depopulates the African American Community, he believes it is wrong. He sees the comments as protected by free speech, but the comments were a malfeasance of office. The motion is to recommend the Commissioner for removal for malfeasance and nonfeasance. Mr. Jones-Darling read aloud comments made by Commissioner Gaines, and explained how those comments disqualify Commissioner Gaines from continuing as a Commissioner.

Commissioner Hicks asked if Commissioner Gaines is acting in a way that promotes tolerance. She fails to see how these comments promote mutual understanding.

Commissioner Gaines stated when he spoke about the Arab and Indian Communities it was in reference to how they are owners of businesses in the African American Community and do nothing to help that community. There are only a few things sold in party stores that are healthy, and the African American Community needs to be aware of that. Commissioner Shuler asked Commissioner Gaines's intent in his comments. Commissioner Gaines responded his intent was to wake people up in his community. Mr. Shuler asked if Commissioner Gaines intent was to get the African American Community to do something. Mr. Gaines responded his intent was to get people to think, and African Americans are not complaining about his comments.

Commissioner Jones-Darling asked if Commissioner Gaines recognizes he is African American and he is complaining. Commissioner Gaines replied Commissioner Jones-Darling identifies as biracial on social media.

Commissioner Fellows stated this discussion is important in many ways, but she doesn't believe this conversation is appropriate at this time.

Commissioner Fellows moved, seconded by Commissioner Hicks to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Jones-Darling	No
Commissioner Saunders	Yes
Commissioner Shuler	No
Commissioner Fellows	Yes
Commissioner Gaines	Yes
Commissioner Josephine Hicks	Yes

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, November 26, 2018

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.



Meeting Minutes

City of Ypsilanti Human Relations Commission Regular Meeting

City Council Chambers - One South Huron St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Monday, November 26, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Jones-Darling	Present
Commissioner Fellows	Present
Commissioner Gaines	Absent
Commissioner Hunter	Absent
Commissioner Devika Choudhuri	Absent
Commissioner Avonte Browning	Absent
Commissioner Josephine Hicks	Absent

No Quorum

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. October 29, 2018
- B. November 9, 2018

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Bylaw Revisions
- Public Flier Kiosk discussion
- Amendment to Sec. 58.32 recommending lengthened HRC terms, limits, granting youth member ability to vote on procedural matters
- MLK Celebration
- 2019 HRC Schedule

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: TBA

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. due to lack of Quorum.

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
ONE SOUTH HURON STREET
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197**

2019 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The regular meetings of the City of Ypsilanti **Human Relations Commission** for the year of 2019 will be held on the **fourth Monday 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 2019 meetings are as follows:

- January 28th
- February 25th
- March 25th
- April 22rd
- June 24th
- July 22nd
- August 26th
- September 23rd
- October 28th
- November 25th

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