

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018
7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS:

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

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Fellows 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. August 27, 2018

Commissioner Fellows moved, seconded by Commissioner Hunter 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

- Chair Comments. Commissioner Jones-Darling called on City Council to create a five-year fixed term for each member of the Commission. He further indicated that he would like the ethics ordinance be reviewed for future standing. He stated that his intent is that the Commission be given authority over the Non-discrimination Ordinance investigations and

enforcement of the ordinance. In response to query by Commissioner Fellows, Commissioner Jones-Darling indicated that he would like to schedule a special meeting to discuss incidents of targeting reported by some of the Commission members, noting that he would like to invite City Council to participate in the conversation.

- Public fliers on utility poles. Commissioner Hunter stated that there is an issue with the ordinance being disproportionately used. Reading from the ordinance, Commissioner Jones-Darling noted that there are currently no public kiosks located within the City.

Commissioner Fellows moved, seconded by Commissioner Choudhuri, to propose to the Planning Department an amendment of Section 42.81 of the City Code to lift the prohibition of public postings until a minimum of four kiosks are installed in the Downtown, Depot Town, Park Ridge and West Cross areas.

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Hunter moved, seconded by Commissioner Choudhuri, that the Commission authorize Deputy Clerk Hellenga to make the proposal on behalf of the Commission.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and Deputy Clerk Hellenga indicated that he would make the proposal to the Planning Department to amend Section 42.81 of the City Code to lift the prohibition of public postings until a minimum of four kiosks are installed in the Downtown, Depot Town, Park Ridge and West Cross areas, as indicated by the Commission.

- Attorney opinion regarding Commission questions regarding the Non-discrimination ordinance. Commissioner Jones-Darling indicated that this matter would be discussed further at the upcoming special meeting.

- Sub-committee reports. Commissioner Jones-Darling reported that there are two sub-committees: 1) a public engagement matters and branding sub-committee; and 2) improvement of report system, public information sheet form and Non-discrimination ordinance violation form. He tabled the discussion for the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Fellows reported on the housing affordability and accessibility meeting, and stated that the focus would be on public outreach and data collection. She noted that a report would be made sometime in or about April.

- Gender neutral wording recommendation. Commissioner Fellows stated that she would reach out to the community regarding this issue. She indicated that the ordinances as written reflect a patriarchal artifact. Commissioner Hicks indicated that there is a shift in use of gender as to singular and plural pronouns, and Commissioner Jones-Darling noted that common English standards are typically used in a legal context which is why the discussion is so important.

Commissioner Jones-Darling cautioned the Commission to allow flexibility in reviewing the ordinances in order to determine when an ordinance is blatantly discriminatory or effectively written, noting that the discussion could be added as an agenda item and revised as a team effort.

- Create process of building community input. Commissioner Hunter indicated that he will prepare a proposal for creating a process for building community input. Commissioner Jones-Day stated that community forum needs to be defined. Commissioner Choudhuri stated that more needs to be done to bring voices to the silent. Commissioner Hunter suggested that the meeting language be simplified for better understanding within the community. In response to query by Commissioner Jones-Darling, Commissioner Hunter indicated that he would prepare a letter thanking those who helped draft and continue to passage the community benefits ordinance.
- Commission support of community benefit organizers. Commissioner Fellows reported that there would be no commission representation for the Ad Hoc committee. She indicated that the Mayor would select three residents from the community, three of which have to be suggested from community groups.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

None.

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

- A. Construction of form for submission of complaints starting with the Police Complaint Form
- B. Gender neutral wording recommendation

Commissioner Choudhuri, moved, seconded by Commissioner Fellows, to officially recognize Indigenous People's Day by the City

On a voice vote, the motion carried, for the Commission to propose that the City officially recognize Indigenous People's Day.

Commissioner Jones-Darling indicated that the City Clerk's office is hiring election staff, noting that paid training is provided.

IX NEXT MEETING DATE:

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sam Jones-Darling adjourned the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.