



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, June 9, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Zoom Meeting -
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84413443956>
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Page

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Abdo
Commissioner Choudhuri
Commissioner Hagenauer
Commissioner Hicks
Commissioner Hill
Commissioner McLaughlin
Commissioner Sharon
Commissioner Smith

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3 - 4

- A. May 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes
[HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION - 12 May 2021 - Minutes](#)

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5 - 16

- A. Strategies on how to recruit youth members to sit on City Boards and Commissions.
[Supporting Documents](#)
- B. Increasing communication with the public.
- C. Homelessness

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

July 14, 2021

X. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION Meeting

7:00 PM - Wednesday, May 12, 2021
Zoom Meeting

The HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 7:00 PM, in the Zoom Meeting, with the following members present:

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

II ROLL CALL

Present:

Commissioner Choudhuri (Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County), Commissioner Hagenauer (Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County), Commissioner Hill (Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County), Commissioner McLaughlin (Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County), Commissioner Smith (Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County)

Absent:

Commissioner Abdo, Commissioner Hicks, Commissioner Sharon

III AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Choudhuri moved, seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the agenda as submitted.
On a voice vote the motion carried.

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) March 22, 2021 Commission Minutes

Commissioner McLaughlin moved, seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the minutes as submitted.
On a voice vote the motion carried.

V AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VI DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) Commission Goals for 2021.
- b) Development of strategy to communicate with the public.
- c) Developing a plan to announce the Commission's Relaunch.

VII AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VIII PROPOSED BUSINESS

IX NEXT MEETING DATE

June 9, 2021

X ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm

Report to the Human Relations Commission

From the Youth recruitment Team (Richard Smith and George Hagenauer)

At the point of starting our work, all of the youth positions on all of the Boards and Commissions of the City of Ypsilanti were unfilled.

Our short term Goal is to have enough applicants to fill all of the positions by September.

This would enable a special training to be done of the new youth members as a group orienting them to city government.

The hope would be that they could jell as a group and ultimately play a role in the recruitment of their replacements in a year.

In reviewing the openings it struck us that The Art Commission , Parks and Recreation and possibly Sustainability may be best recruited through groups active in these areas . One thought might be to recruit the three youth members for Parks and Recreation by looking for youth active in each of the major parks in the 3 Wards. Likewise The 2 Art Commission applicants should probably reflect not just the general requirements for Youth Commissioners but also the diversity inherent in the arts which span two dimensional media like painting and drawing, creative writing, video production, a wide range of music, theatre, performance arts etc..

As such it seems like we are in some cases looking at a very broad-based recruitment effort and at other times a more targeted one for specific skills and experiences.

Overall – the applicant pool needs to reflect the ethnic and racial and gender diversity of the city as well as the geographic diversity of the 3 wards.

We have begun identifying people who can help us with the recruitment effort.

This packet is in several parts:

Part One is the material from the City website that relates to the commissions and the applicants. This is mainly for the use of commission members

Part Two is an edited version more targeted to youth applicants that can be used with youth and the adults aiding us with recruitment

Part Three is a guide for youth filling out the city application

Any input would be appreciated

PART ONE: Material from the City Website related to the Commissions and Youth members

Mainly as source material for the Human Relations Commission Members

Appointees to City Boards and Commission shall meet the affiliation qualification requirements of the City Code, Section 2-111, below, as well as any specific qualifications required by City Ordinance or State Statute.

All youth members must be **Ages 16 or 17 and city residents for 2 years or more**

Sec. 2-111. Applicability of section.

(a) Except as otherwise specifically provided, members of boards and commissions shall be affiliated with the city. This requirement shall be fulfilled by an individual shall have been a resident of the city for a minimum of two years

The application process is online (possibly a barrier for some) and is accessed here :

<https://cityofypsilanti.com/FormCenter/Boards-Commissions-6/Citizen-Advisory-Boards-and-Commissions--45>

Youth Vacancies

Art Commission 2 youth openings

Regular Meetings

- 7 p.m.
- 3rd Thursday of every month
- City Council Chambers (location subject to change)
1 S Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

The state of Michigan has recognized, through the enactment of The Faxon-McNamee Art in Public Places Act (MCL 18.71 et. seq.), the importance of promoting art in government spaces and facilities. City council has determined that the creation and presence of public art will advance the interests of the City, aid in enhancement of property values, improve the aesthetic quality of public spaces and structures, provide cultural and recreational opportunities, contribute to the local heritage, stimulate economic activity and promote the general welfare of the community. City council recognizes the responsibility of government to foster the development of culture and the arts. It is therefore declared to be municipal policy to promote public art. The Ypsilanti Arts Commission shall promote art in the City of Ypsilanti and promote the City policy of Pride, Diversity and Heritage. To educate the public why the arts, culture and creative industries are important to the City of Ypsilanti and to cultivate a community culture and

environment that embraces and nurtures artistic and creative assets. To promote and further diversity, equity and inclusion of all of Ypsilanti in the arts

Human Relations 2 youth openings

Meetings 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.

The Human Relations Commission supports efforts to enhance mutual understanding among the City's culturally diverse residents. The term length for Regular Commissioners is 3 years and 1 year for Youth Members.

Parks & Recreation 3 youth openings

Regular Meetings

- 7 p.m.
- The 2nd Tuesday of each month
- Meetings currently held via Zoom due to COVID-19 State of Emergency

The Parks and Recreation Commission is appointed by City Council to ensure recreational programs and opportunities are afforded all citizens, by encouraging public-private partnerships between the City, local businesses, organizations, neighborhoods, Washtenaw County, and neighboring townships and by encouraging volunteerism. The goal of the Parks and Recreation Commission is to seek sustainable alternatives and methods for making recreational programming available to the citizens of the City of Ypsilanti.

Police Advisory 2 youth openings

The regular meetings of the City of Ypsilanti Police Advisory Commission for 2021 will generally be held on the fourth Thursday of each month, at 7:00 p.m.

The Police Advisory Commission works to strengthen the relationship between the community of the City of Ypsilanti and the Ypsilanti Police Department and to serve as a liaison to enhance community and police relations and serve as an advocate for programs, ideas, and methods to improve the relations between the police and the community.

Purpose: The purpose of the Ypsilanti Police Advisory Commission is:

- a. To strengthen the relationship between the community of the City of Ypsilanti and the Ypsilanti Police Department.
- b. To serve as a liaison to enhance community and police relations and serve as an advocate for programs, ideas, and methods to improve the relations between the police and the community.

c. To Review police complaint investigatory findings, and report to council on the Commission's analysis of these findings.

d. To collect, review, and audit summary data and compile aggregate statistics relating to individual or community police complaints and other issues of importance.

e. To educate the public about complaint process, and ensure and recommend ways to make the process accessible to all

f. To make recommendations to the City Manager with regard to organizational matters and procedures.

g. To participate in annual review of the Ypsilanti Police Department's Citizen Police Academy.

h. To consult and advise the City Manager on the Ypsilanti Police Department's strategic plan.

Sustainability 2 youth members

Meetings

- Generally: 7 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month; see [annual meeting schedule for specifics](#)

SUSTAINABILITY: Achieving a balance of ecological, social, and economic considerations to provide for an equitable path for the growth and improvement of our community in the uses of our resources, remaining conscious of the historical context, while ensuring the availability and vitality of those resources for future generations."

The Sustainability Commission will seek to create a model of sustainability through efforts to advocate, educate and promote the social, economic and environmental health of the community now and into the future.

PART 2

This section is draft language for each Commission with Openings that can be used for recruitment or incorporated into leaflets designed for recruiting youth commissioners.

Youth Vacancies

Art Commission 2 youth openings of 1 year

All youth members must be Ages 16 or 17 and city residents for 2 years or more

Regular Meetings

- 7 p.m.
- 3rd Thursday of every month
- City Council Chambers (location subject to change)
1 S Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (currently online via Zoom due to Covid19)

The arts extend from paintings and drawings to public sculptures and murals to events that are held within the city related to music, dance , performance, theater and online creative endeavors done by citizens of the City of Ypsilanti.

The commission reviews and supports these art activities many of whom involve young people as participants. As such the youth commissioners assist the Art Commission in providing input related to the arts and youth.

Human Relations 2 youth openings of 1 year

All youth members must be Ages 16 or 17 and city residents for 2 years or more

- 7 p.m.
- 2nd Wednesday of every month
- City Council Chambers (location subject to change)
1 S Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (currently online via Zoom due to Covid-19)

The Human Relations Commission supports efforts to enhance mutual understanding among the City's culturally diverse residents. Youth Commissioners provide the Commission with information about how youth are approaching these issues.

Parks & Recreation 3 youth openings

All youth members must be Ages 16 or 17 and city residents for 2 years or more

Regular Meetings

- 7 p.m.
- The 2nd Tuesday of each month
- Meetings currently held via Zoom due to COVID-19 State of Emergency

The Parks and Recreation Commission is appointed by City Council to ensure recreational programs and opportunities are afforded all citizens. Youth are major users of the City's Parks and recreation facilities and their input is important to the Commission.

Sustainability 2 youth members

All youth members must be Ages 16 or 17 and city residents for 2 years or more

Regular Meetings

- 7 p.m.
- The 2nd Monday of each month
- Meetings currently held via Zoom due to COVID-19 State of Emergency

SUSTAINABILITY: Achieving a balance of ecological, social, and economic considerations to provide for an equitable path for the growth and improvement of our community in the uses of our resources, remaining conscious of the historical context, while ensuring the availability and vitality of those resources for future generations."

The Sustainability Commission will seek to create a model of sustainability through efforts to advocate, educate and promote the social, economic and environmental health of the community now and into the future.

Since Youth will inherit the Ypsilanti of the future – their involvement in creating a sustainable community is critical

Police Advisory 2 youth openings

All youth members must be Ages 16 or 17 and city residents for 2 years or more

Regular Meetings

- 7 p.m.
- The 4th Thursday of each month
- Meetings currently held via Zoom due to COVID-19 State of Emergency

The Police Advisory Commission works to strengthen the relationship between the community of the City of Ypsilanti and the Ypsilanti Police Department and to serve as a liaison to enhance community and police relations and serve as an advocate for programs, ideas, and methods to improve the relations between the police and the community. The input of Youth is critical to this process.

Purpose: The purpose of the Ypsilanti Police Advisory Commission is:

- a. To strengthen the relationship between the community of the City of Ypsilanti and the Ypsilanti Police Department.
- b. To serve as a liaison to enhance community and police relations and serve as an advocate for programs, ideas, and methods to improve the relations between the police and the community.
- c. To Review police complaint investigatory findings, and report to council on the Commission's analysis of these findings.
- d. To collect, review, and audit summary data and compile aggregate statistics relating to individual or community police complaints and other issues of importance.
- e. To educate the public about complaint process, and ensure and recommend ways to make the process accessible to all
- f. To make recommendations to the City Manager with regard to organizational matters and procedures.
- g. To participate in annual review of the Ypsilanti Police Department's Citizen Police Academy.
- h. To consult and advise the City Manager on the Ypsilanti Police Department's strategic plan.

PART 3:

The City application form with some notes adapted for youth commission applicants. This is only to help answer some questions to apply you must go to

<https://cityofypsilanti.com/FormCenter/Boards-Commissions-6/Citizen-Advisory-Boards-and-Commissions--45>

- **Qualifications**

Must be a resident/business owner in the city for at least two years. Or Council must determine your expertise is essential and not available in an applicant that meets the qualifications above.

Some of the sections of the forms are easy to understand. There are *helpful hints in italics in some areas of the form to adapt it to the needs of Youth Commissioner applicants.*

- Name*

- Email Address* *If you do not have an email – partner with someone who does have one and who you are in regular contact*

- Address

- City

- State

- Zip Code

- Phone Number*

- Number of Years in the Community

• Ward You Live In- *if you don't know this (and that is possible since you are not a registered voter) you can find this out by contacting the City Clerk 1 S Huron Street Ypsilanti, MI 48197 Phone: 734-483-1100*

• Education

• Occupation *None is okay*

• Employer *None is okay*

• Are you applying for youth membership?

Three Commission Allow Youth Membership (Sustainability, Parks and Recreation, & Human Relations)

Note actually 5 do – as the Art Commission and Police Advisory are not listed above.

1. Yes
2. No

• Are you registered to vote in the City of Ypsilanti? **Does Not Apply to Youth Members just mark no**

1. Yes
2. No

• I would like to be considered and could devote sufficient time to serve on the following board or commission: **NOTE THE LIST HAS A LOT OF COMMISSIONS BUT ONLY THESE ARE THE ONES THAT HAVE YOUTH MEMBERS**

1. Human Relations Commission
2. Parks and Recreation Commission

1. Sustainability Commission
2. Police Advisory Commission
3. Art Commission

- Party Affiliation *if none mark none*

If you are applying to serve on the Ethics Board please provide your political affiliation **Not applicable to youth members as there are no positions on that Board.**

1. •

- Why are you interested in serving on these boards/commissions?* **Talk about your interests or concerns related to how the board or commission area of activity affects youth in the way the city is run or in the activities available for youth within the city.**

- Work/volunteer experience related to the board or commission: **This can include activities you do related to the board or commission; areas you have studied; etc.. Also note your contacts with other youth or groups of youth as a key part of your role on the commissions will be to bring the concerns and viewpoints of a wide range of youth to the city.**

- I understand that appointment to a City of Ypsilanti board or commission requires regular attendance at board meetings.

1. Yes

- I hereby certify that all of the information above is true.

1. Yes

Ypsilanti Youth Recruitment



You can't go back and
change the beginning
— but you can start —
where you are and
change the ending.

Contact Information





Part One: Material from the city website related to the commissions and youth members (for use of commission members)

Part Two: Edited version of information from city website more targeted to youth applicants that can be used with the adults aiding us with recruitment.

Part Three: Guide for youth filling out the city application (any input would be appreciated)