

**City of Ypsilanti
Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers - One South Huron St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Wednesday, June 13, 2019, 7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Browning	Absent
Commissioner Choudhuri	Absent
Commissioner Fellows	Present
Commissioner Gaines	Present
Commissioner Hagenauer	Present
Commissioner Hicks	Absent
Commissioner Hunter	Present

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved.

Offered By: Commissioner Hunter; Seconded By: Commissioner Gaines

Approved: Yes – 4; No – 0; Absent – 3 (Browning, Choudhuri, Hicks)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. May 8, 2019

Minutes were approved as amended.

Change: Commission Haugenauer's name to be corrected.

Offered By: Commissioner Hunter; Seconded By: Commissioner Hagenauer

Approved: Yes – 4; No – 0; Absent – 3 (Browning, Choudhuri, Hicks)

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

1. Sam Jones-Darling, Ward 3, stated the City should ban testing of marijuana for all of its employees and should investigate banning testing for all private employers. Marijuana should be regulated like alcohol. He is happy to have been able to work with the commission.

VI. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

— **Housing Affordability & Accessibility** – Commissioner Fellows updated the Commission about the Google form survey to get housing demographics. There will be a final public input phase before they send the results to Planning Commission. Ozone House and Neutral Zone invited youth from California to discuss gentrification. Ypsilanti youth then went to California and are going to present about local gentrification on June 24th at the Downtown library from 6:30-8:30. Commissioner Hagenauer asked about the unbuilt lots in the city and what the barriers are to development.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

➤ **Election of Commission Chair**

Commissioner Fellows provided a brief statement of service for the Commission Chair position. She stated that she is interested in building report on the commission and discuss facilitations style and move towards a more participatory democracy. Formalized commissions create barriers. She has done advocacy around public participation, immigrant rights, and renter's rights, local Non-Discrimination Act, and helped form the Housing Affordability & Accessibility Commission. She is a 16 year Ypsilanti resident and is the longest serving commission member. She is also interested in the rank choice method for elections.

Motion to nominate and appoint Commissioner Fellows to Commission Chair.

Offered By: Commissioner Gaines; Seconded By: Commissioner Hagenauer

Approved: Yes – 3; No – 0; Abstain – 1 (Fellows) ; Absent – 3 (Browning, Choudhuri, Hicks)

➤ **Election of Commission Vice-Chair**

Commissioner Hunter provided a brief statement of service for the Commission Vice-Chair position. He stated that he has been involved with the commission since 2017. He has been able to engage in a lot of impactful work that have led to greater discussion. He would like to continue to contribute to the commission and advocate for marginalized communities.

Commissioner Gaines provided a brief statement of service for the Commission Vice-Chair position. He stated that he has been on the commission for a year and a half. He was a voice during the International Village. He learned a lot by running for office and wants to continue to learn in the Vice-Chair position.

Commissioner Fellows noted that Commissioner Choudhuri does not have the capacity for the Vice-Chair role, but has expressed support for Commissioner Hunter.

Commissioner Hunter nominated himself to Vice-Chair, seconded by Commissioner Haugenauer.

Commissioner Gaines nominated himself to Vice-Chair, seconded by Commissioner Haugenauer.

Failed: Gaines – 2 (Gaines, Haugenauer); Hunter – 2 (Hunter, Fellows)

Motion to table Commission Vice-Chair elections.

Offered By: Commissioner Hunter; Seconded By: Commissioner Haugenauer
Approved: Yes – 4; No – 0; Absent – 3 (Browning, Choudhuri, Hicks)

➤ **NEW COMMISSIONER WELCOME PACKET**

New Commissioner Welcome Packet was passed last meeting. Fellows stated that the welcome packet will be on the website. Haugenauer would like to add the Code of Ethics when they review it.

➤ **CENSUS 2020**

Haugenauer would like to know what the commission can do to support the upcoming decennial census. There is a risk of undercounting residents with some communities more at risk, including the growing homeless population and people living in group homes. Fellows asked if the Point in Time Count could be added to the census. Hunter suggested a Town Hall to discuss priorities related to the census. Clerk Hellenga stated that the County is taking charge of Ypsilanti's Complete Count.

Commissioner Hunter asked about their budget. Clerk Hellenga stated that Boards and Commissions have been allocated \$5,000 and the commission would submit a proposal to Council. Printing and publishing, depending on volume, could come from the Clerk's Office.

➤ **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE COLOR RUN**

Commissioner Hunter has heard that residents take issue with the Color Run and how it has been organized. It has been polarizing. It is put on by an entity that does not have investment in the City and is an appropriation of the Indian Festival Holi. Commissioner Fellows that there is an investigative piece being done by What's Left Ypsilanti.

➤ **REVIEW RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CODE OF ETHICS**

Commissioner Fellows stated that the Ethics Commission has reformed. Commissioner Haugenauer stated that the Code of Ethics should be included in the Oath of Office. Commissioner Fellows thinks people should be given the Code of Ethics when they are sworn into office. Fellows added that the process of communication among commissions in anti-democratic.

Motion to send a recommendation to the Ethics Commission to consider adding the Code of Ethics to the Oath of Office.

Offered By: Commissioner Haugenauer; Seconded By: Commissioner Hunter
Approved: Yes – 4; No – 0; Absent – 3 (Browning, Choudhuri, Hicks)

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

None.

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

1. Fellows – Vice-Chair Elections
2. Haugenauer – Review current goals.
2. Haugenauer – Commission membership and recruitment.
3. Hunter – Equitable land acknowledgement.
4. Gaines – Resident and City relations event, such as a resident and police basketball game.
5. Hunter – Parkridge conditions of the playground and benches.
6. Hunter – Status of Pen Park.
7. Hunter – Town Hall to discuss licensing medical marijuana facilities and removal of Marijuana convictions from people interested in opening a dispensary.
8. Fellows – Resolution to recognize the service of Sam Jones-Darling.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: July 10, 2019

X. ADJOURNMENT: **The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.**