



# MINUTES

## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION Meeting

6:00 PM - Thursday, October 17, 2019  
Council Chambers

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The HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Thursday, October 17, 2019, at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers.

### I CALL TO ORDER

**The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.**

### II ROLL CALL

Commissioner Choudhuri	Absent
Commissioner Fellows	Present
Commissioner Gaines	Absent
Commissioner Hagenauer	Present
Commissioner Hicks	Absent
Commissioner Hunter	Present
Commissioner Rosser	Present
Commissioner Sharon	Present

### III AGENDA APPROVAL

**Commissioner Rosser, seconded by Commissioner Sharon to remove the Historic Trauma agenda item.**

**The agenda was approved as amended.**

### IV AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

Commissioner Fellows read two prepared statements from residents:

- Anne Brown, Ward 2, hoped the HRC discusses goals regarding diversity and inclusion.
- Shane McParland, Ward 2, requested that HRC create a resolution to form a relief fund for Ypsilanti homeless students.

- Alexandria Shults, read a prepared statement in opposition to the Huron River Watershed Council article asking people to stop stacking rocks in the Huron River. She stated that increased diversity training and recruitment would be helpful.

Commissioner Rosser asked Ms. Shults to share the statement to include in the minutes. Commissioners Hunter and Fellows thanked Ms. Shults for her presentation.

## V DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) Meeting with GARE representative, Anna Lemler

GARE representative Anna Lemler provided a brief presentation about GARE and Race Forward. Commissioner Rosser asked for clarification about the price. Ms. Lemler stated it is based on the number of employees, not including temporary. Ms. Rosser expressed interest in learning about their work with comparable cities. Commissioner Hunter asked for clarification about racial anxiety goal. Ms. Lemler stated that race is not frequently spoken about in our dominant institutions and there are many people who are not comfortable talking about race. Mr. Hunter expressed his concern with this goal.

Commissioner Sharon asked for examples of questions that are asked during training and specific training. Ms. Lemler stated that there is a racial equity action toolkit that has a variety of resources. Commissioner Fellows asked if there has been data about outcomes. Ms. Lemler stated that they are working on collecting that information. Ms. Fellows asked if the membership fees include trainings. Ms. Lemler stated that it would include discounts but not training. Ms. Fellows asked what the cost for a single day of training. Ms. Lemler stated that it would be \$12,000.

The Commission discussed potential issues with racial equity training and other opportunities for strategic planning facilitators.

- b) ~~Historic Trauma video~~ (removed)

- c) Transition Plan

Commissioner Fellows stated that Council did not vote to extend her term. The Commission expressed their disapproval of that decision. Ms. Fellows discussed the Housing Affordability and Accessibility subcommittee. Commissioner Hagenauer expressed interest in getting involved with the committee.

- d) Commissioner nominations: racial equity and inclusion

Commissioner Fellows stated that the resolution was passed by Council and they could continue to restructure the process. Ms. Fellows discussed the citizen nominating process with Clerk Hellenga and listed the pros and cons. Commissioner Sharon approved of the requirement to submit a nomination in person. Commissioner Hagenauer discussed ways to improve the recruitment process and need for specific skills on commissions.

Ms. Fellows stated that there is potential for outreach to get citizen charter amendment. Ms. Fellows asked if there are diversity goals in the hiring process.

**Commissioner Rosser, seconded by Commissioner Hunter, moved that Section 3 of the Human Relations Commission objectives serve as guidance for identifying and appointing members to all commissions.**

**Yes: 5  
Hicks)**

**No: 0**

**Absent: 3 (Choudhuri, Gaines,**

Commissioner Fellows suggested tabling the charter change discussion to the next meeting.

**e) Youth commissioners and voting power**

Commission discussed nomination and voting powers for youth commissioners. Commissioner Rosser discussed some recruitment strategies for youth members.

**Commissioner Hagenauer, seconded by Commissioner Rosser, that the Commission would like to recognize and thank Amber Fellows for her long-term commitment to the Commission and her leadership.**

**Yes: 4      No: 0      Absent: 3 (Choudhuri, Gaines, Hicks)  
Abstain: 1 (Fellows)**

## **VI SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Fellows stated that the Housing Affordability and Accessibility Subcommittee survey was coming to a close. They received 400 submissions and are working on analyzing the data.

Commissioner Fellows thanked everyone and listed that accomplishments and ongoing projects of the commission.

## **VII AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE**

1. Brian Geiringer, Ward 1, spoke about a concern with a resident and mentioned that the nondiscrimination ordinance may not apply to the Mayor and other people. He commended Commissioner and the commission.

## **VIII PROPOSED BUSINESS**

- a) Elections
- b) Historic Trauma
- c) Charter Amendment
- d) Kiosks and flyer ban

## **IX NEXT MEETING DATE**

- a) November 13, 2019

## **X ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.**