

Human Relations Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2016

Members Present: Alice Lewis, Parrish Stahl, Jessica Embury, John Hawthorne, Suzanne Mure, Melissa Morse, Rev. John Clemons, and Hassan Ahmad.

Members Absent: Lynn Isaacson-Zolman

Ex Officio Present: Valerie Cochran-Toops

Also Present: Jonathan Green and Lt. Chris Simpson, JPD

- I. **Call to Order:** By Chairwoman A. Lewis at 6:30 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call**
- III. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion by P. Stahl, supported by J. Embury. Motion carried.
- IV. **Citizen Comment:** A citizen spoke to the lack of handicap parking downtown. P. Stahl gave updated information on the status of parking spaces being placed downtown. Also mentioned was on the county level. Information was given to refer further.
- V. **Guest:** None.
- VI. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes for September 21, 2016:** Motion by J. Clemons, supported by H. Ahmad. Motion carried.
- VII. **Community Liaison Police Officer:** Lt. Chris Simpson gave notice and invite to the HRC of a Panel discussion at St. John's Methodist Church on Mechanic St. to be held at 6:30 p.m. Issues in the community with police and African Americans. Eight citizens will be on the panel. Looking to doing right and to do better. Lt. Simpson also noted the retirement of Det. Gary Schutte. He also stated has sat in several interviews today. Step 2 is done and hope to have done next couple of months. Also, to note that this is a higher violence and robberies time of year. Weather, holiday's, etc. Concentration and training to these types of situations is ongoing. A couple of grants were received by the city police department totaling \$9,000 to create recruitment videos, job fairs to assist with increase job recruitment. The police also asked to assist Thomas Burke with Save our Youth, on three gun buy back dates and part of the grants will assist with that. J. Hawthorne inquired about what happens to the guns, and Lt. Simpson responded that they are destroyed. P. Stahl asked about turning guns in anonymously, and yes that can be done. The guns are reviewed and person interviewed if crime, or stolen may be a factor. Also trying in this time to get more publication for safety during this time of year with rise in crimes. V. Toops asked about the groups using the Pokeman Go, and Lt. Simpson replied also way advised to be aware of surroundings. J. Embury asked about the ten heroin overdoses and about a drug summit. Lt. Simpson stated that it appeared to be a bad batch and got JNET and Sherriff department, and townships to assist. There was an arrest made with selling with death. Presently, at the library tonight, is a meeting about heroin in community and new in Michigan a more powerful version. Chair Lewis

asked about Halloween and patrols, and Lt. Simpson stated additional patrols will be out. J. Clemons asked about an incident in the 1st Ward where a member of the neighborhood watch was passing out fliers and offered one to the officer and asked if someone could or would be able to attend. The officer replied to the member of the neighborhood watch that there was no time for that. They then called down to the station to ask for officer to come to the meeting, felt they were put off and no callback to let them know if an officer would or could be there or not. Lt. Simpson stated that this was unacceptable and to contact him at any time to ensure arrangements to be made to be there.

VIII. Community Update/Chairperson's Correspondence: Chair Lewis reported that she had attended the Center for Family Health September 29th luncheon, and attended the October 18th Center for Family Health dinner with networking with those folks there. She is also working with her church on a fall rally to raise money for the season. Monies raised go to Thanksgiving boxes.

IX. Staff Report: No complaints reported. Finance reports pulled and \$1,174.43 spent this fiscal year including the picnic. Needs the bills for the Harold White Memorial Breakfast and needs to dig further with the note that \$757 spent. M. Morse noted money from the breakfast goes back into HRC. Chair Lewis reported that 84-90 people were there. Also will check with Sharon and John Willis for further details. Chair Lewis also asked how much is in the budget. J. Greene responded that no certain amount is now in the community promotions budget. Just need to know about even and amounts ahead of time for approval. J. Embury asked when the budget request needs to be done. J. Greene stated January 2017. Discussion noted to committees for planning. J. Hawthorne asked what date specifically is needed for budget request. J. Greene replied by the HRC January meeting. J. Embury asked about the events committee and events to be ready. Chair Lewis recommended for the November HRC meeting, the HRC historically does not have a business meeting in December.

X. Committee Reports:

A. Public Relations: P. Stahl reported that the Harold White Breakfast was very positive and went well. Asked about the Movie plan and what the budget or cost is. J. Embury reported no.

B. Policy Committee: J. Clemons reported that meeting this month on the Nondiscrimination Ordinance (NDO) with community leaders and some City Council, and it is to be presented to City Council. J. Hawthorne asked when to have recommendations moved? J. Clemons replied January, but there were some setbacks. H. Ahmad inquired on the date for the Policy Committee meeting. J. Clemons replied trying for middle of next week. M. Morse asked since not officially on the committee would like to participate. Chair Lewis responded that M. Morse can be added immediately. J. Clemons reported that the individual groups all wanting an NDO need to consolidate and bring forward to help move this issue and recommendation forward.

- C. Nominating Committee: J. Clemons mentions that since openings are coming up need to with staff put notices of openings out. There are two vacancies. Vote on M. Morse to approve for full term on the HRC starting 2017.

A motion was made by J. Clemons, supported by P. Stahl to recommend the reappointment of Melissa Morse for a full term on the Human Relations Commission. Motion carried, and will move to City Council.

- D. Events Committee: J. Embury reported the committee will be meeting with considerations for upcoming year. More focus on picnic, back to school might be a good idea to combine with picnic. Free Movie event in February at the Michigan Theatre and work on the Teresa Delph Essay/Oratorical Contest. Neighborhood Watch as a new event and focus as annual event to focus on holiday season safety event. Kid's fest along with Harold White Breakfast are still on course. Recommend that a debriefing be done after events to go over and review. V. Toops inquired about moving the picnic to downtown and J. Embury noted can discuss further. J. Embury asked if there were any other movie ideas that needed to be presented and none came forth. M. Morse stated that once the list is narrowed will work with Steve Tucker to get an idea to work on theme and will follow up with further details. V. Toops reported Teresa Delph Essay/Oratorical contest contact that calling a meeting together to arrange and did make contact with Mr. Moore that having the contest and getting out the information for those to participate. Chair Lewis asked for a meeting to be scheduled in November.

- XI. Old Business:** J. Hawthorne asked about any communications with the Mayor or City Manager? No communications, John Willis was to discuss at this meeting, but could not be present this evening.

- XII. New Business:** Community meeting tomorrow night. Police ride along if you are interested, please contact Deputy Chief Hitt. Challenge Day will be held at Jackson College Nov. 7th, 8th, and 9th. Volunteers are needed to assist. Chair Lewis asked about the business cards. J. Greene replied not sure of the business cards, but will check further. Also, inquired about name tags for the HRC Commissioners. J. Greene stated could be done and Sharon will pick up request in the minutes.

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Suzanne Mure
Secretary