

Human Relations Commission Zoom Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2021

- I. Call to Order
Meeting was called at 6:02pm by Cheryl Ragland
- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Robert VanSumeren, James Johnson, Maurice Imhoff, Cheryl Ragland, Shalanda Hunt, Miriam Brown Dorsey
Absent: Karyl Baker
Staff: John Willis
City Council Liaison: Arlene Robinson
- III. Adoption of the Agenda: Motion to discuss/adopt amended agenda with one change by Miriam Brown Dorsey. 2nd by Maurice Imhoff.
 - A. Under Committee Reports delete (B) move to New Business (A)
- IV. Approval of Minutes (May): Motion to accept minutes by Maurice Imhoff. 2nd by Shalanda Hunt. Motion carried.
- V. Virtual Citizen Comments: None
- VI. Guest Speakers: None
- VII. Community Liaison Police Officer: Director Hitt
 - i. Police recruit position still open to hire individuals 21 years and older
 - ii. Police Academy is looking to start in August. The list has been narrowed down to three candidates (two females- 1 person of color, 1 white female, and 1 Hispanic male).
 - iii. Looking to bring the candidates on board for in house orientation mid-August.
 - iv. Field training will begin sometime in late December or the beginning of January.
 - v. The Racial Equity Commission has asked that their meetings be regularly attending by the Community Liaison Police Office just as they are participating with the HRC. This was discussed with John Willis and the overall suggestions was made to alternate between meetings every other month. If HRC has something specific they need to address, accommodations can be made.
 - vi. The Police Oversight Commission Ordinance is moving forward. Conversations are still happening. We are looking to have a meeting within the next couple weeks. Director Hitt expressed that he is confident about the progress being made.
- VIII. Committee Reports:
 - A. Nominating Committee
 - i. Thomas Burke was recently interviewed. A decision is yet to be made. A meeting has not been scheduled. The committee will schedule a meeting ASAP and provide an update next month. The team needs to get together to formally say yes or no for his membership.
 - ii. Currently three vacancies for the Ex-Officio in the following areas: Business, Education, and Social Services.
 - iii. There are currently two commissioner vacancies: criteria are that they must be a city resident.
 - iv. Cheryl Ragland that all commissioners come prepared with a list of names to provide to the nominating committee for evaluating.
 - B. Policy and Complaint Committee-

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- i. A complaint came in yesterday we are waiting to see if it should be filed with the HRC. Updates to follow.
- C. Events and Public Relations Committee-
- i. Juneteenth events: There is a virtual Town Hall meeting scheduled.
 - ii. A live panel on Social Health Disparities is scheduled at 10:00am on 06/17/2021. Later that same evening business interviews are taking place on JTV at 6:00pm. Friday June 18th at 10:30am, a Social Justice Panel is scheduled at the Michigan Theatre. On Saturday June 19th, the Southside Summer Fest is happening. During this event, the Black Lives Matter mural will be repainted.
- IX. Old Business-
- A. Municipal Equality Index Project Update-
- i. Karyl Baker has the final update for the MEI. It is done Cheryl will contact Karyl Baker.
- B. Fair Chance Housing Ordinance-
- i. Legal wants more changes made. Nothing was taken out, just some terminology was added. Updates were sent to John Willis. Once HRC approves the changes, copies will be sent out. The decision was made to approve each document individually.
 - ii. Miriam Brown Dorsey made the motion to adopt the notice to housing violators and/or the criminal penalties that they are subject to. 2nd by Robert VanSumeren.
 - iii. By July meeting the HRC should know what exactly we need to do and what training is needed.
 - iv. Robert VanSumeren suggested the need to do consistent follow-ups on the various commissions within the community.
- C. Harold White Breakfast Preparation Discussion-
- i. It has been approximately two months since the conversation took place with Cascades Manor. They were opened to serve HRC with the new Covid restrictions. They would not do a buffet but would serve individual plates. The tentative date is Wednesday of October 6th from 7:30am-8:30am.
 - ii. Cheryl will contact John Willis for the nomination forms. Cheryl will verify the name of the event and report back in July.
- X. New Business
- A. Dine Under the Lights Proposal-
- i. Maurice Imhoff reported that he experienced some challenges. Unable to find any funding information/contact information on the city website. Think it is a good idea to partner with the DDA. Cheryl suggested creating a mini proposal. The committee is Cheryl, Maurice, and Robert. Updates to follow in July.
- B. Expungement Fair Discussion-
- i. Robert VanSumeren sent some flyers to Cheryl. Robert expressed that he likes Expungement Fairs. There has been a new package of expungement

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bills. Robert briefly provides an overview of the laws in place. The new laws are expected to go into effect in 2023. Robert posed the question to all commissioners, “Do we want to have an expungement fair”? If so, we would need representation from Legal Affairs. Miriam Brown Dorsey mentioned that Nation Outside has sponsored an expungement fair in the past. Shalanda suggested meeting other community members with experience to gain a better understanding of where to begin this process. Robert agrees to contact Anthony Gant and Dilia and provide updates in July.

XI. City Councilmember Liaison Comments:

A. Arlene Robinson- not much to share. Just amazed at how you all get things done! It shows true leadership and commitment to the city of Jackson HRC. Happy and excited to know that you all are putting your all into this and committing yourself to many hours of research. Do not ever feel that you are not appreciated. Please remember to send out the flyers and Fair Chance Housing documents. Latrivia Guinn has expressed interest to apply for a commissioner position.

XII. Commissioner’s Comments:

A. Good work team. We are accomplishing a lot. James expressed that he supports Arlene Robinson’s campaign and is willing to canvas the community. Robert expressed gratitude being on the team and the collaborative work completing document updates. Good meeting! Maurice thanked Cheryl for her consistent leadership. At this time, we are scheduled to begin meeting in person on August 1st. Cheryl shared that the zoom link will still be provided for all individuals that are not comfortable being in large groups. Meeting in person remains optional. Cheryl was contacted by the Chelsea HRC. They researched us and seen all the things on our website. They wanted Cheryl to share with them what Jackson HRC is currently doing to get things done in our city. Cheryl provided a foundational explanation about how the HRC was created, as well as the details about how we do what we do.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Maurice Imhoff. 2nd by Miriam Brown Dorsey.

Motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shalanda Hunt