

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2018

City Hall

161 W. Michigan Ave.

Jackson, MI 49201

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by John Hawthorne followed by Roll Call by S. Mure.

**Members Present:** Miriam Brown Dorsey, Valerie Cochran-Toops, Jessica Embury, John Hawthorne, Melissa Morse, Suzanne Mure.

**Members Absent:** Alice Lewis (excused), Russell Jennings (excused), Rev. John Clemons (resigned).

**Ex Officio Present:** Cheryl Ragland, Krissy Kerwin, James Johnson Jr.

**Staff:** John Willis.

**Adoption of the Agenda:**

Motion by V. Toops, 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Brown Dorsey carried to amend the agenda to add item C under New Business. Motion by M. Brown Dorsey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by V. Toops for adoption of the agenda, carried.

**Citizen Comment:**

G. Carter with invitation to the South Side Reunion to be held on August 10, and 11, 2018, also requested donations from the City-HRC and provided information to the commissioners.

N. Ryan-Taylor asking about summer work programs for youth.

Mayor D. Dobies to discuss dialog at the City Council meeting regarding HRC, vacancy on the HRC board, and provided a recommendation of J. Josling for consideration with his full support. Information on staff training for Bridges Out of Poverty and GARE training available for board members also.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to amend the minutes by M. Brown Dorsey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Morse carried with corrections made for correction to the May 16, 2018 minutes showing M. Brown Dorsey, not R. Jennings made the motion for the Vice-Chair. Motion Carried.

**Community Liaison Police Officer:**

Adam Williams reported Director Hitt gave conditional offer of employment to a local hoping to hire more local to stay local. Still hiring and still working on cadets also. Looking to hire two (2) initially and review after July 1<sup>st</sup>. Body cameras in and officers trained. MSP partnership on Youth Academy on July 12, 2018, one (1) officer for a week to participate. The shooting on April 1, 2018, three (3) officers cleared and back to work. Director Hitt also attended the Juneteenth and had a lot of positive feedback there.

**Committee Reports:**

Events/Public Relations: We are looking to hold an expungement fair here in Jackson with Michigan Works and several other entities helping. The cost would be covered via a grant. Report for the July meeting to bring back details to see if we will move forward.

Motion to support future expungement fair upon further details and J. Embury to bring back that information. Motion by M. Morse and 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Brown Dorsey. Motion carried.

City Council adopted the month of September for Domestic Violence Recognition and will work with HRC and City Councilwoman C. Sullivan with the Aware Shelter. September is Domestic Violence Prevention, October is Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Back to School Program budget has been provided to the commissioners with details. Vendor forms need to be in by August 1, 2018 deadline.

Harold White Breakfast to be held on October 17, 2018 at 7:30 a.m. at Cascades Manor House. Will be asking for requests for ads to assist and generate monies to offset some of the cost. Asking each commissioner to try to get at least three (3) ads. The goal is to get the forms for the ads in July to be sold in August and September. Looking to have nominations in by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motion made for the date of October 17, 2018 for the Harold White Breakfast made by J. Embury and 2<sup>nd</sup> by V. Toops. Motion Carried.

Motion to request \$459.44 toward the DJ (\$325) and Bounce House (\$134.44) for the Back to School Bash. Motion made by J. Embury and 2<sup>nd</sup> by V. Toops. Motion Carried.

Second Public Forum, looking to set a tentative date of July 30<sup>th</sup> and place to be determined.

Motion made by M. Morse and 2<sup>nd</sup> by V. Toops. Motion carried.

Candidate forum information to be presented at the July meeting.

Policy Committee: Met and discussed about the strategic Plan to explore diversity plan for the City. No action work has been done and the Project committee to take point to assist the Policy committee.

Project Committee: Two (2) projects with action. 1) Jackson Youth Council with proposal and ordinance meeting with M. Moser to be held on June 26, 2018 at 10 a.m. Help with grant funding and marketing for full package to present to Council. Will bring back to the July Meeting and after July 6, 2018 meeting for a full package to be presented to City Council. 2) Racial Demographics of City Hall vs City of Jackson. Race information to be collected by M. Brown Dorsey with goals to project and create proposal and diversity recommendations.

Nominating Committee: J. Hawthorne put on the nominating committee and noted advertised on facebook, City page and inviting applications to be filled by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Eleven (11) people already applied with follow up and nine (9) updated waiting on two (2) others. Early July to review and make recommendations to HRC and City Council. Kudos to the interns getting the information out to social media.

Teressa Delph Oratorical/Essay Contest: Will follow up with A. Lewis on future of the event.

**New Business:**

Jackson –Idea for Community Events covered under Events committee report.

Formulate a Strategic Calendar for 2018 with all committees. J. Hawthorne will present as a guideline to help with planning and action items. September meeting HRC to have a guess with resource available in conjunction with Domestic Violence.

NDO Complaint: Date of incident April 28, 2018. Motion to refer to City Attorney for an opinion on complaint # 18-001 on recent actions from civil rights changes and if falls under the NDO. Motion made by V. Toops and 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Embury. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments: City Manager P. Burtch providing domestic violence ribbons to the commissioners.

Adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Suzanne Mure  
Secretary