

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes  
July 18, 2018  
City Hall  
161 W. Michigan Ave.  
Jackson, MI 49201

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by John Hawthorne followed by Roll Call by S. Mure.

**Members Present:** Miriam Brown Dorsey, Jessica Embury, John Hawthorne, Russell Jennings, and Suzanne Mure.

**Members Absent:** Valerie Cochran-Toops, Melissa Morse.

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

**Staff:** John Willis.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion by M. Brown Dorsey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Embury. Motion carried.

**Citizen Comment:** Israel Gray, seeking options for Mental Health for kids ages under ten. Nikki Joly, Invitation to Jackson Pride on August 18, 2018, 11 a.m. Asking for support and attendance for the Rally Pride from HRC with 10 a.m. set-up time and hours 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to amend by J. Embury, 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Brown Dorsey. Motion carried with corrections.

**Community Liaison Police Officer:** Director/Chief Hitt reported on Gus Macker and how well it went. Body Cameras goal met by July 1<sup>st</sup>, and if any questions on the policy to please ask. New cadets, four positions and a conditional offer made. Two positions August 6<sup>th</sup>, and two in October, all Jackson local residents. Officer Tinklepaugh anticipated to return to duty in August. Michigan Youth Leadership had 22 youth start and 19 finished the full academy. It was well attended and JPD officer assisted. Michigan State Police (MSP) does this every year and this was the first year for Jackson County. Would like to offer locally besides the MSP and a rough cost of about \$20,000.00 to possibly host.

**Committee Reports:**

**Events/Public Relations:**

- A. **Back To School Event** noted we were approved for the vitality grant from Henry Ford \$750.00. Still need vendors and looking for more. An Interview with JTV is set for August 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- B. The **Harold White Event**, solicitation sheets in process to get sponsors. The goal is for each commissioner to get 5 sponsors and the forms will be emailed to us.
- C. **Community Forum**, details to come later in the meeting.

D. **Candidate Forum**, still in the works.

**Policy Committee:**

Looking to make sure ordinances updated and meets open meetings details for further clarity, also adding NDO language. Councilman Alexander also looking to add Protected classes to four other ordinances. Will need to have recommendations reviewed with information to go forward. The language was read at City Council and will be emailed to the HRC.

**Project Committee:**

Meeting with Jackson Community Foundation on June 26, and covered an overview with the community. Good information also with the Youth Council, Recruit, Marketing and Mentoring. Presentation by Cindy Bellow and Emma Grace on the Youth Advisory Council. C. Ragland seeking approval for HRC to create a letter of intent for a grant application with notification if granted to HRC by the third week of November. If HRC accepts, will meet with City Attorney for letter of intent to move to City Council for approval.

Motion made to approve the HRC Youth Council by M. Brown Dorsey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Embury. Motion carried.

Motion to authorize the Project Development Committee to create a letter of intent with the City Attorney with relevant data to be provided to apply for a grant from Jackson Community Foundation, pending City Council and Mayor approval. Motion by J. Embury, 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Jennings. Motion carried.

A meeting is set up with M. Brown Dorsey, C. Ragland, J. Willis, and City Manager P. Burtch for next Tuesday on pay gap disparity. Once the meeting takes place, will move forward.

Projects goals will be met for this year.

**Nominating Committee:**

The committee met on July 18, 2018 at 5 p.m. with interviews held. Motion made by R. Jennings to have the chair submit recommendations to the Mayor for Julia Josling and Cheryl Ragland to be added as commissioners to the HRC. J. Embury 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion carried.

Noted that seeking to fill and reaching out to the community for the Ex-Officio positions should approval by City Council go through. Discussion of possible expansion of the HRC board also in discussion.

**Old Business:**

- A. Calendar provided by the Chair and reviewed. Notes taken and will be updated. Community Forum set for July 30<sup>th</sup> at Boos Center. Guest Mark Stanley from SDRS with information for the forum on Structural Institutional Racism. He stated he is checking with SDRS grant programs on starting the discussion. He agreed to assist facilitate the forum. Possible Ward discussion to share to the full community. Changes possible to making the forum a workshop planning with public input.

**New Business:** None

**Commissioner Comments:**

Motion to request HRC to put an ad in for the Harold White event in the Southside Reunion program with amount approval. Motion by J. Embury, 2<sup>nd</sup> from M. Brown Dorsey. Motion carried.

NAACP Freedom Fund information provided. Motion to request a table the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet on October 14, 2018 for the HRC. Motion by J. Embury, 2<sup>nd</sup> from M. Brown Dorsey. Motion Carried.

With quorum, J. Hawthorne, S. Mure, J. Embury, M. Brown Dorsey for motion made to promote and share the SDRS fundraiser to support the expungement fair on the HRC Facebook page. Motion made by J. Embury, 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Brown Dorsey. Motion carried.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn made by R. Jennings, 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Brown Dorsey. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Suzanne Mure  
HRC Secretary