

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall
April 17, 2002
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gilbert Blanks
Kathleen Conley
Teressa Delph
Rosemarie Herbert
Alice Lewis
Will D. Riley
Robert Whitman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ed Peterson
Thomas Ramundo (exc.)

STAFF PRESENT:

Henry Jenkins, Staff
Lt. Mary Jo Kennedy, Police

GUEST:

George Brown, Citizen Patriot
Marie Fletcher, MI Dept. of
Corrections Project Dev.
Tony Lewis

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman Blanks at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken.
2. Citizen Comment:
Marie Fletcher introduced herself and expressed her appreciation of being able to meet with the HRC to present her project regarding Francis Street, "The Heritage Square International". Ms. Fletcher explained how she tried to get financing to start a business. Several local banks denied her a loan to open a new business on Francis Street. A brief discussion followed.

Will Riley made a motion to refer Ms. Fletcher's complaint to the Michigan Department of Civil Rights for further investigation. In addition, the MDCR would be asked to keep the HRC apprised of the status. The motion was supported by Robert Whitman. The motion carried.
3. Guest:
Tony Lewis spoke about his experience on the Police Department Ride Along program. He was impressed with the professionalism of the officer he rode with.
4. Police Liaison's Report:
Lt. Mary Jo Kennedy reported that there are three persons in training in the police department's new program.

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to others who participated even though they did not win. Alice Lewis suggested finding another place to hold the Oratorical Contest in the future due to so many distractions and congestion in the Mall. It was the consensus of the HRC to look for another place to hold the essay contest. Robert Whitman reported that he had contacted the media.

Labor and Industry Committee: Rosemarie Herbert, Chairman

No report.

Public Relations Committee: Ed Peterson, Chairman

No report.

Ad Hoc Committee - Civil Rights Ordinance

Rosemarie Herbert reported that she had heard from the Chamber of Commerce and that they will be issuing a value statement. She also said that she felt that the HRC needs to get the proposed ordinance on the City Council agenda and get it done.

Rosemarie Herbert made a motion to put the proposed ordinance on the May 28 City Council Agenda. A lengthy discussion followed the motion. The motion lacked support. Discussion followed. It was decided that the HRC needs a plan and a timeline.

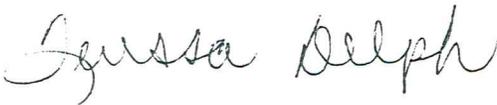
Rosemarie Herbert made a motion that the HRC meet in two weeks and formulate a plan. The motion was supported by Robert Whitman. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A discussion took place regarding a memorial for Harold White. HRC members were asked to come to the next meeting with their idea of a proposed memorial for Harold White.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Delph
Secretary