



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: City Hall, City Council Chambers
161 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson MI, 49201

- I. Call to Order.
- II. Roll Call. Present: Amy Rich, James Johnson, Jr. (Chair), Shalanda Hunt, Miriam Brown Dorsey, Cheryl Ragland, Robert VanSumeren. Absent: Latrivia Guinn.
- III. Adoption of the Agenda. Motion to adopt, second (?). Unanimously passed.
- IV. Citizen Comments (3-Minute Limit).
- V. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes. Hunt motion to approve. Second, VanSumeren. Unanimous, as adopted. Correction: Civil Rights Conference in June, not July.
- VI. Comment by Miriam Brown Dorsey. Concerns about intentionality. We need to keep better minutes. Add: Correction to Miriam Brown Dorsey name.
- VII. Community Liaison Police Officer Report. Lt. Pete Postma. Newly appointed community relations. Has moved to day shift. Working on Juneteenth event, run a MILO trainer at 1st Congregational Church... a simulator system. In process of adding a second school recourse officer at Parkside. Citywide DEI training, upcoming. Interviews for three more officer recruits. Sgt. Rose has announced her retirement after 25 years. Police week is happening; generous donations from the community.
- VIII. Committee Reports.
 - a. Nominating Committee. Committee has approved Ms. Rich (new commissioner). Have attempted to schedule additional interviews. Will continue to schedule. We still have 16 candidates to interview.
 - b. Project Development Committee. No update.
 - c. Policy and Complaint Committee. No update.
 - d. Public Relations/Communications Committee.
 - e. Public Events.
 - f. Treasurer. Amount Used: \$5,465.39. Amount Remaining: \$9,534.61.

- IX. Old Business
- a. Future applicant interviews - update. Sixteen interviewees remaining.
- X. New Business
- a. Civil Rights Conference June 19th - # of attending.
- b. Discuss Juneteenth Table. Amy Rich, Cheryl Ragland, Miriam Brown Dorsey. This team will schedule among themselves.
- c. Address membership & Attendance. The commission continues to work toward filling seats.
- d. Mental Health/ Homelessness -discussion continued. John Willis will update. The Jackson Housing Commission will acquire T. A. Wilson, for the purpose of homeless housing. Dorsey updates on her discussion with Affordable Housing Development. Ragland talked with MiSHDA... in relation to homes being built on the South Side. MSHDA has approved several home buying courses, and home buyer housing counselling are available. Hunt spoke with Community Action Agency. They have a class for prospective homeowners; a four-hour session, not a guarantee of down payment assistance. They also have financial classes. Chair proposes putting together a summit, including financial education, life insurance, estate planning. Life skills, financial literacy.
- e. Strategic Planning Session. June 3, 2023, 9:00am.
- f. Mediation Training. Mark has training schedule in June and August... would need to schedule a special training. 8 five-hour days. We could do mid-July, or early-fall. Talk with them to begin in September.
- XI. City Councilmember Liaison Comments. Public hearing on budget. Discussion on homelessness.
- XII. Commissioner's Comments. Rich asked about whether communication was made with the fall for moving the Harold White breakfast; John will contact family. Also, this Friday, at noon, there will be a meeting at Blackman Park. We have a Facebook page... has not been updated for a very long time.
- XIII. Adjournment. 6:57pm. Motion to adjourn, Dorsey. Second, Hunt. Unanimously passes.
- These minutes were taken from my notes, and are respectfully submitted.

Robert W. VanSumeren, Secretary
June 19, 2023