



Minutes

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

For Wednesday, July 3, 2019

6:00 PM

311 S. Main

Council Chamber

Chelsea, MI 48118

- (1) Call to Order at 6:03pm. Roll call: all present
- (2) Approval of Agenda: Motion by Kaminsky, Seconded by Hockersmith.
- (3) Public Comment: None
- (4) Presentations of Invited Speakers: None
- (5) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (June 5, 2019) .
 - Corrections showing Councilmember Albertson was absent, and spelling corrections
 - Approved unanimously.
- (6) Regular Business
 - a) Follow-up on survey presentation.
 - a. General satisfaction with the survey presentation
 - b. Kaminsky commented on the “interesting” take on the gender identify issue raised at the presentation session. Albertson suggested the use of “interesting” is perjorative.
 - c. Feedback from attendees at the presentation:
 - i. Knowledge of the existence of the ordinance needs to be expanded.in the community
 - ii. The “Chelsea Cares” organization can be active in HRC related projects
 - iii. The Commission itself should serve as a source of information

- d. Patterns of Chelsea occupancy discussed as a basis of the lack of diversity.
 - e. Kaminsky suggested forming “sister city” relationship with other Human Rights Commissions, such as Ypsilanti facilitate moving into the city. Suggested other clubs and organizations also coordinate.
- b) Future presentations
- a. Township boards
 - b. Chambers of Commerce
 - c. Downtown Development Agency (Anderson suggested that Council approval may be necessary before briefing local Chelsea entities)
 - d. Service clubs
 - e. Churches
- c) Vision for next steps
- a. Personal vision of individual commissioners suggested by Chair
 - i. Ladio: existence of Commission needs to be known well outside Chelsea. City should be seen as “intentionally welcoming.” Need to spread information about discrimination in schools and elsewhere. Combat institutional racism.
 - ii. Kaminsky: Sister cities approach is key. Expand to churches, etc.
 - iii. Hockersmith: may need additional focus on sexual discrimination.
 - iv. Anderson: The Ordinance exists to rectify discrimination and is available. Need to look at lessons learned and consider unintentional consequences. “Community climate” needs to be maintained as one of the things Chelsea does well. Accusations of discrimination without evidence will not do this. Commission should focus on dissemination of information and vigorous pursuit of cases of bias. Requested best piece of evidence for the value of diversity. Need to ensure that efforts to increase diversity don’t decrease social capital and mutual trust.
 - v. Susan: We all agree that people need to know about the Commission and the Ordinance. Wants to integrate with similar groups in the area, State level, etc.
 - b. The sister city relationship (see above) would be helpful
 - c. Coordination with State level human rights agencies
 - d. Immediate next steps: reach out to specific local groups, clubs, and churches.
- (7) Communications
- NDO Complaints in process: 0
- (8) Reports and Future Agenda Items
- The Community Observer newspaper is evidently doing a story on lack of diversity in Chelsea, with the focus on how it is be a minority in the City
- (9) Adjournment. Motion to adjourn by Kaminsky at 7:24 pm, and seconded by Anderson. Unanimously approved.

