



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
Minutes for the Meeting Held Wednesday, April 3, 2019 6:00 PM  
City Council Chambers  
311 S. Main Street  
Chelsea, MI 48118

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call: All Present
- 2) Approval of Agenda
  - a) Motion to Approve Agenda: Kaminsky; Second: Anderson
  - b) Discussion
    - i) Additional items proposed by Anderson
      - (1) Open Meeting Act Discussion
      - (2) Financial Conflicts of Interest
      - (3) Revised presentation on HRC Survey
    - ii) Additional item proposed by Chair: discussion on Community Development Director
  - c) Agenda approved unanimously
- 3) Public Comment
  - a) Charles Wisely Washington Street. Offered streetside space for the Commission to set up a booth during city festivals.
- 4) Presentations of Invited Speakers: None
- 5) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings – March 6, 2019
  - a) Motion to Approve: Kaminsky; Second: Anderson. Approved Unanimously
- 6) Regular Business
  - a) Implementation of HRC workplan
    - i) HRC Annual Plan presented to City Council at its last meeting. Council noted that Commission should include a report on complaints received.
    - ii) Chair reported that the Commission will return to Council to brief plans in more detail as they mature, per the Mayor's request.
    - iii) Implementation of Plan
      - (1) Part 1 of plan: prepare and present a more detailed presentation on the survey
      - (2) Part 2 of plan: research topics identified through the survey.
  - b) Survey Presentation update
    - i) Anderson shared some key slides on the analysis of selected survey questions
      - (1) Compensation for demographics and sampling errors, which changed the relative priorities of the options in Question 4.
      - (2) Correction for oversampling of high school population
      - (3) Should address those options which relate to HRC responsibilities
    - ii) Chair presented discussion questions proposed for new survey presentation. Suggested we schedule a work session to address some of these issues, include potential discussion questions. Discussion questions:
      - (1) Community diversity as an important element

- (2) Bullying an important topic. How can adult members counter?
  - (3) Are there additional actions organizations need to take to be more welcoming?
  - (4) Is Chelsea just fine the way it is?
  - iii) Ladio: suggested discussion question about how aware people of issues in the community.
  - iv) Albertson urged the Commission not to encourage individuals to submit only the worst features of the community.
  - v) Chair: plan work session for next Wednesday (April 10) at 6:30pm. Topic: continue survey presentation planning.
  - vi) Chair: HRC has a database of contact information for individuals interested in supporting the aims of the HRC
- 7) Communications
- a) Anonymous Citizen inquiry regarding racial identification by the Chelsea Police Department. (race of suspect given as black, usually race not noted). Is there a policy?
    - i) Albertson: race is always part of the suspect description for felonies. Race is not part of the reporting process for civil infractions.
    - ii) Chair: what should our response be?
    - iii) Ladio: Would like HRC to be the focus for collecting such incidents (e.g., gathering information and disseminating)
    - iv) Chair: should we ask the police department if they have such a policy?
    - v) Anderson: question not within jurisdiction of Commission.
    - vi) Albertson: Commission has no authority to conduct independent inquiries.
    - vii) Chair: would it be appropriate to share this information?
    - viii) Anderson: Would be inappropriate to proceed without approval of Council to conduct procedures of this type.
    - ix) Chair: item tabled, but Council Liaison Albertson will pursue Commission's concerns with Council and Chief Toth
- 8) Reports and Future Agenda Items
- (1) Open Meeting Act Discussion. Anderson: Commission may not be formally required to conform to the Open Meetings Act. Electronic sharing would be opened up if we didn't have to conform. Chair: we need to ensure that we conform to the principles of the OMA, which does allow for limited use to electronic communications. No action taken.
  - (2) Financial Conflicts of Interest. Anderson: no formal templates available from the City. If any Commissioners have a financial conflict of interest, they should draft a memo with the particulars and forward to the City and the HRC Secretary.
  - (3) Chelsea Community Development Director status. In work per Councilmember Albertson.
- 9) Adjournment Motion to adjourn: Anderson Second: Kaminsky. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.