

**VILLAGE OF LANSING
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MEETING
CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 18, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Valencia called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call revealed the following Commissioners present:
Valencia, Iwaszko, Schaeffer, Stinson, Titsworth, Wright.
Roll call revealed Commissioners Bolz, Quillin and Smith were absent.
Commissioner Smith arrived at 6:36 p.m. Commissioner Bolz arrived at
6:40 p.m.

Chairman Valencia introduced two guests from the Thornton Township
HRC: Bert Rivera and Tui Muse.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Valencia asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the
March 21, 2019 meeting.

Commissioner Iwaszko so moved.
Commissioner Schaeffer seconded.

ROLL CALL

Yeas – 5
Nays – 0
Abstentions – 2
Minutes Approved

Iwaszko, Schaeffer, Smith, Stinson, Titsworth

Valencia, Wright

OLD BUSINESS

a) Chamber of Commerce Business Expo

Commissioner Schaeffer, Commissioner Wright and Chairman
Valencia attended the Business Expo. Commissioner Schaeffer
stated that they had a table next to the Village's table. He also stated
they had no signage and people had to ask who they were. He said
they met quite a few people and had good conversations. People had
ideas they would like to share and they were encouraged to come to
the meetings. He felt that there was a positive vibe from the
community accepting the commission. Commissioner Wright added
people are excited and said there was good acceptance of the
commission.

b) Family Learning Celebration at Memorial

Commissioners Iwaszko, Quillin and Valencia all attended the event.
Commissioner Iwaszko stated it was a well-attended event and their
presence made people more aware about the commission. Chairman

Valencia stated that some of the people who they spoke with had questions about certain problems they are having. Chairman Valencia encouraged them to attend the HRC meetings and to share their problems or issues at the meetings.

c) Community Roundtable – When, where and who?

Chairman Valencia explained the vision of this meeting is to form a group outside of their regular meeting to sit down and open discussions with residents that they cannot do at monthly meetings. He stated the need for a round table may be to expedite projects between meetings. No one had any comments at that time, Chairman Valencia decided to table this topic until the next meeting.

d) Develop a better method to communicate future events to all commissioners

There was much discussion between the commissioners on how to communicate future events between commissioners. Commissioner Smith expressed some uncertainty regarding communicating between each other. It was discussed that if commissioners would like to share events they feel would benefit to have the HRC present, they should forward the upcoming events to the secretary. She can create a calendar and forward to everyone. The calendar would include events for the commissioners to attend and events that the HRC will be hosting for the public to attend.

CALL FOR PROJECT

- a) Unite all community entities and build mutual understanding and respect for diverse cultures**
- b) Develop civic pride to foster personal equity**
- c) Communicate via methods that improve accessibility to all our residents to solicit their involvement**

Chairman Valencia talked about the 3 goals and he stated the community is looking for the HRC to start being more involved. He stated the commissioners need to be more committed and involved and would like to see a lot more effort from the commissioners outside of the regular monthly scheduled meeting. He suggested they prioritize the goals and focus on one area at a time. The commissioners suggested many ideas that included:

- i. Go out of their way to let residents know they matter
- ii. Host a meet and greet
- iii. Get to know neighbors by creating a survey
- iv. Create a forum for the residents
- v. Host a day at Fox Pointe
- vi. Have a day in the park to bridge the gaps
- vii. Walk through the community
- viii. Workshops focused on diversity
- ix. Create a brochure with a mission and goals

Commissioner Bolz stated he is in agreement that they want more info from the community to influence the direction of the commission. He also agrees with Chairman Valencia to prioritize the brainstorming. List the three goals with projects under each one, action plans, with commission leads. He would like to see more structure with the planning of their actions. Commissioner Titsworth feels that it is important to let the people know they matter and to have events to show them. Commission Stinson would like to dig deeper and proposed a workshop on diversity and inclusion.

Commissioner Smith suggested to form committees. She also does not want to replicate or duplicate the ideas that they have already discussed. Commissioner Bolz stated that going to the events that other people have invited the commission to is important, but what the commission is doing on their own to get in touch with residents is equally as important. Commissioner Schaeffer stated the event at the library and the parade are good events for this goal. Commissioner Smith would like their own event where they can actually get expectations or feedback from people. Chairman Valencia agreed with assigning commissioners to committees. They were set as follows:

Meet & Greet - Commissioners Titsworth & Iwaszko
Goal #1 - Commissioners Stinson & Valencia
Goal #2 - Commissioner Schaeffer, Quillin & Wright
Goal #3 - Commissioners Smith & Bolz

Chairman Valencia asked that the four assigned committees meet with their assigned committee commissioners before the next meeting and choose one area or idea to focus on and bring back a plan of action on that specific area to the next meeting.

Commissioners are not excluded from any of the specific assigned areas. If they have any input they are welcome to suggest or help in different areas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

a) Good Neighbor Day Parade – May 4, 2019

Commissioner Schaeffer showed the commissioners the t-shirts that he and Commissioner Quillin ordered for the parade. He also stated he picked up the banner and car magnets. Chairman Valencia stated that the budget that was approved for \$875.00 has been exceeded. Commissioner Quillin would like additional funding of \$1281.00 for items for the parade. The breakdown for items is:

\$ 200.00 for banner and magnets
\$ 300.00 for candy
\$ 221.00 for t-shirts
\$ 320.00 for postcards
\$ 1,115.00 for Frisbees

Chairman Valencia asked for a motion to approve the additional funds of \$1,281.00 to spend on items for the parade.

Commissioner Wright so moved
Commissioner Stinson seconded

There was some discussion and concerns about the amount being spent on the parade. Chairman Valencia explained the fiscal year ends April 30th and the funds do not roll over. Because of this, the commissioners were all in agreement to approve additional funding for the parade.

ROLL CALL

Yeas – 8

Nays – 0

Wright, Stinson, Valencia, Bolz, Iwaszko, Schaeffer, Smith, Titsworth

b) Community Roundtable at the Library - May 14, 2019

Chairman Valencia asked the secretary if everything was good for responding to the library. She stated yes all responses have been received.

At this time Commissioner Bolz invited all the commissioners to a block party on June 22nd at Oakley Ave at 183rd from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Budgetary approval

Chairman Valencia opened up the floor to the commissioners about their budget and asked if there was anything they would like to discuss about the budget.

Commissioner Iwaszko wanted to address an item under new business. He said he is in agreement with Commissioner Titsworth that they should allow the residents more time to speak and have the floor opened longer. He suggested if the meeting is over sooner than they would have time to mingle with the residents that attend the meetings.

Commissioner Smith addressed the budget and asked about ordering their polo shirts under this budget year. Chairman Valencia explained they do not have a logo yet, so it is holding up any additional ordering. Commissioner Smith suggested to have the commissioners all work on a logo and bring to the next meeting. Chairman Valencia stated it would be too late to add it to this year's budget. Commissioner Bolz talked about having a contest to get people involved. Commissioner Stinson stated he would like it more basic and use the Village's logo. Commissioner Bolz suggested using the Village's logo and add a slogan or tagline and still have the community involved in helping create it. Chairman Valencia suggested they do not have to rush into it.

Chairman Valencia talked about having a website created. Commissioner Bolz said to ask the Village to save a URL and to have a page under the Village's website rather than having their own website.

Commissioner Titsworth talked about the Lansing Museum and one of the upcoming displays entitled "Influential Woman of Lansing." She invited the commissioners to view all of the displays at the museum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Dwanna Harris stated she has been a Lansing resident for one year. She was introduced to the commission at the Business Expo. She suggested using social media as a platform to get information out about the HRC. She would like to see more information going out to the public as to how the public can be involved with the commission.
2. Melanie Jongsma suggested if they want to spend their budget to place an ad in the Journal as a way for residents to be more educated on the HRC.
3. Gabriel Pierce stated that he has attended several meetings and he is still uncertain to what the commission is about. He still asks the same question: what problem are we solving? He stated the HRC will be successful when people are touched personally. When you agree what you are about and define who you are, then you will attract people who want to be involved.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Valencia asked for motion to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.

Commissioner Iwaszko so moved.
Commissioner Schaeffer seconded

ROLL CALL

Yeas - 8

Nays - 0 -

Meeting Adjourned

Iwaszko, Schaeffer, Valencia, Bolz, Smith, Stinson, Titsworth, Wright

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Calomino
Secretary Human Relations Commission
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