CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Valencia called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL
Roll call revealed the following Commissioners present:
Valencia, Bolz, Schaeffer, Smith, Stinson and Wright
Roll call revealed Commissioners Iwaszko and Titsworth were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Chairman Valencia asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2019 meeting.
Commissioner Bolz so moved.
Commissioner Smith seconded.

ROLL CALL
Yeas – 5
Bolz, Smith, Valencia, Schaeffer, Stinson
Nays – 0
Abstentions – 1
Wright
Minutes Approved

OLD BUSINESS
Chairman Valencia stated that there were no items under old business.

CENSUS
Commissioner Stinson stated he was not at the last Complete Census meeting but will be attending a meeting scheduled on Monday. He also stated he will reach out to the committee and ask if there is anything they would like the HRC to do to become more involved. Melanie Jongsma is on the committee and was in the audience. Commissioner Stinson asked if she could share any updates from the meeting. Melanie Jongsma stated there are many upcoming events that the committee will be attending to distribute flyers to residents. She informed the commissioners that their help would be appreciated at some of these events.

Chairman Valencia stated that nobody has directed the HRC as to what to do relating to the 2020 Census. He asked if the HRC should wait until approached or if they should plan something on their own. There was discussion about the timeline of the census. Chairman Valencia stated he feels that people who attend events in Lansing are people who already want to be involved and will complete the census, but asked how they can reach the people who do not attend these events. Some ideas were discussed between the commissioners on what the HRC can do including having an informational meeting for residents, partnering with churches
and then giving information out after mass has ended, going to senior housing facilities in Lansing and helping seniors fill out the census forms, and having a meet and greet with dinner included and inviting Congresswoman Robin Kelly.

Melanie Jongsma suggested that the commissioners attend the Fiesta training that is scheduled at the library by the Census Bureau staff on March 20th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Chairman Valencia stated that he would like the commissioners to be involved in attending different events and helping to pass out flyers. He also asked Commissioner Stinson to find out if they can be part of the training. At that point he stated the HRC could decide on what it wants to do to be involved with the census.

LEARNING TOPICS

Commissioner Schaeffer stated he did not talk to Emily Boescher yet about the possibility of her attending one of the meetings to educate the commissioners.

UNDERSTANDING GENERATION ISSUES

Commissioner Bolz passed out a document he created as a general guideline for civic discussion that included questions that they can use as a tool to help conversations. He stated he feels having such discussions between the commissioners before engaging with the public will make them more prepared to fulfill their advisory role.

The topic at this meeting was generational differences. Commissioner Bolz opened up the floor for commissioners to share their thoughts. Commissioner Schaeffer stated that seniors are not as visual or high maintenance. He would like the commission to reach out as they are a big factor in our community. Chairman Valencia stated he feels uneducated on some issues as far as terminology used by his children as well as technology.

Commissioner Wright stated the commissioners should have training to make the commissioners better. Once a month have someone come in to train them and make them greater and stronger.

Commissioner Smith asked if the goal of these discussions is to throw ideas out or to see if it can lead to training. Commissioner Bolz stated it is for the commissioners to discuss but can lead to having speakers come to the meetings to educate them. Chairman Valencia informed the public is not involved with the discussions, but may comment when public comment is open.

They discussed topics that they should discuss at the next meeting. They talked about the Selective Service System and about the homeless in Lansing. It was decided the next discussion would be centered on whether Lansing is gender-friendly and that LGBTQIA would be the topic. Commissioner Bolz stated his starter discussion questions can be changed to conform to every topic.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairman Valencia informed commissioners about upcoming events they are encouraged to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bolz brought up a suggestion from the past: have a potential essay contest for high school students with prizes awarded to the top three winners. Commissioner Bolz will bring 2 to 3 topics at the next meeting as ideas they can use to choose a topic for this contest.

Chairman Valencia informed the commission that Jamica Quillin resigned. She has moved out of the state. He informed the commissioners that he will speak with the Mayor to find out the process for a replacement.

Commissioner Smith also brought up a topic they discussed previously about having a logo contest and inquired whether the commission should have their own logo. They discussed that as of now they are using the Village’s logo with Human Relations Commission under that logo.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Melanie Jongsma passed out her cards to all of the commissioners and encouraged them to sign up for the Journal's daily email news.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Valencia asked for motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

Commissioner Bolz so moved.

Commissioner Wright seconded

ROLL CALL

Yeas - 6
Bolz, Wright, Valencia, Schaeffer, Smith, Stinson
Nays - 0 -
Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Calomino
Secretary Human Relations Commission
/sc