

**VILLAGE OF LANSING
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MEETING
CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 21, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Quillin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Quillin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2019 meeting.

Commissioner Bolz so moved.
Commissioner Stinson seconded.

ROLL CALL

Yeas – 6
Nays – 0
Abstentions – 1
Minutes Approved

Bolz, Stinson, Quillin, Schaeffer, Smith, Titsworth
Iwaszko

OLD BUSINESS

A. Underground Railroad

Commissioners Stinson, Schaeffer and Quillin attended the event on February 25, 2019 hosted by the Historical Society and reported that many residents attended. All commissioners were impressed with the interest that the community has for the history that took place in Lansing at the time of the Underground Railroad. Commissioner Quillin shared an event to be presented by the Little Calumet River Underground Railroad Project "Hike the Freedom Trail" on April 6, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. and encouraged commissioners to attend.

CALL FOR PROJECTS

Commissioner Quillin stated that Chairman Valencia wanted to have them break into three groups to review and discuss the three goals, and the new groups would take on a different goal than they had previously been assigned. The commissioners asked that they have each group read their notes from the previous meeting on the three goals. The commissioners were in agreement that they would rather talk about the goals together rather than break into separate groups and if any commissioners would like to add to those suggestions or ideas they could do so. The commissioners felt many ideas would be repetitive and that some ideas would apply to multiple goals.

Commissioner Quillin read the sheet with ideas from Goal One.
Commissioner Bolz read the sheet with ideas from Goal Two.

Commissioner Stinson read the sheet with ideas from Goal Three. Commissioner Smith wanted to add civic engagement to Goal Two. Commissioner Bolz felt Goal 3 should have a communication plan. Commissioner Smith suggested a newsletter or e-newsletter. Commissioner Quillin advised that someone from the commission would need to be in charge of any social media for the commission. She also said that the HRC should create a page explaining who the HRC is and what their goals are and that page can then be linked to the village's website. Commissioner Smith suggested that once the newsletter is created, a link from the HRC page can direct them to the newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Commissioner Quillin addressed the commission and suggested that there are many events that the commissioners can attend to be more present within the community.

A. Chamber of Commerce Business Expo – April 12, 2019

B. Good Neighbor Day Parade – May 4, 2019

Commissioner Quillin referred to the two-page outline on the parade she and Commissioner Schaeffer had prepared, which included ideas of how to engage in the parade. Commissioner Schaeffer will submit the application to the Chamber. Commissioner Quillin talked about a tag line for the HRC and they wanted to use "We Love Lansing." That tag line would be tied to the commission on all marketing materials. Commissioner Bolz thought they are at 1.0 or basic level of marketing and felt that it would be worth it for everyone to put more thought into it rather than having a hard commitment on that tagline. Commissioner Quillin said they will hold off with the tag line. They will use the Village of Lansing's logo and have Human Relations Commission written under the logo on the t-shirts for the parade. They will hold off on all other items until a branding concept is created. There was a discussion about the color of the t-shirt, many in favor of gray. Commissioner Smith wanted to discuss other color options. Commissioner Quillin assigned Commissioners Bolz and Smith to identify the color of the shirts. Commissioner Schaeffer will drive his motorcycle in the parade. Commissioner Titworth suggested a Frisbee to hand out at the parade. Commissioner Quillin asked Attorney Blake how they can communicate to get information from commissioners for action items about the parade. She directed them to communicate individually.

C. Community Roundtable - May 14, 2019

Commissioner Quillin asked the secretary to state the commissioners who have responded to attend the event. The secretary stated Commissioners Stinson, Quillin, Valencia, Smith, Schaeffer all responded they would attend. Commissioner Titworth responded that she will be attending. Commission Bolz will respond at a later date.

D. Family Learning Celebration – March 27, 2019

Commissioner Quillin asked if any of the commissioners are available to attend this event at Memorial Jr. High. All of the schools from District 158 will be there and thought the commission's presence would be a way to build momentum and awareness of the commission. Commissioner Stinson and Titsworth both commented that this is a well-attended event. They will be attending in another capacity, but cannot be stationed at the HRC table. Commissioner Iwaszko will attend and represent the HRC.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Community Roundtable

Commissioner Quillin explained how Chairman Valencia wanted the commissioners to engage outside of the general meetings to discuss and finalize programs for the HRC. Commissioner Quillin decided to table this topic for discussion at April's meeting when Chairman Valencia can explain his vision of the community roundtable.

B. Develop a method to better communicate future events to all commissioners

Commissioner Quillin stated their engagement is critical within the community. It was brought to her attention the lack of African-American participation in general events. She stated now that they are here there is an expectation that commissioners take the time and attend different events throughout the Lansing community. Commissioner Bolz stated they are a catalyst, which falls under Goal 3. Commissioner Smith expressed that she felt they cannot even talk to each other, so how would they achieve that. Commissioner Quillin explained they can all attend events and it is not a violation of the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Bolz also explained you can share information through email and let other commissioners know of upcoming events as an FYI, but do not reply all. Commissioner Quillin said they will expand on this with Chairman Valencia at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Quillin asked that public comment be kept to 3 minutes.

1. Bob Malkas spoke about the commission getting the word out for more people to come to the meetings. He also spoke about the election and suggested on the page created for HRC on the village's website to include that the HRC encourages people to go out and vote and if anyone needs help for various reasons to contact the HRC. He also gave a book to the commission "American History in Black."
2. Darlene Kadar recommended collar t-shirts (polo style shirts) for the parade and women should get shirts made for women and men

should get men's sized shirts. She also stated to the commissioners to keep up the good work.

3. Saad Abbasy also addressed the commission. He thanked the commissioners for the work they are doing. He confirmed the event at Memorial being at 6:15 p.m. on March 27th. He explained that he is the Chairman for the Lansing Planning & Zoning Board and wanted to invite the commissioners to attend one of their meetings. As a resident of Lansing he stated the HRC is a credible voice and a way to engage with each other when it comes to diversity and communication to people. He also stated their presence at the village board meetings and the Planning and Zoning meetings would be beneficial and a way for all to learn from each other. He also suggested to the commissioners to find success stories with multi-ethnic partnerships and bring those stories to present at their meetings. He also recommended the HRC to sponsor and host interviews on the local LNN channel. He encourages the commission to get the social media up and running and feels the HRC's voice would be very effective.
4. Melanie Jongsma stated the Chamber of Commerce Business Expo is a great networking event for the HRC and a way to meet businesses in Lansing and have a voice. It is from 2-7 p.m. on April 12th.
5. Gabriel Pierce expressed to the commission to stick to their goals and don't let people interfere with their progress. Stay focused on what they are doing because they are on a good path.

ADJOURNMENT

Commission Quillin asked for motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Commissioner Bolz so moved.

Commissioner Iwaszko seconded.

ROLL CALL

Yeas - 7

Nays - 0 -

Meeting Adjourned

Bolz, Iwaszko, Quillin, Schaeffer, Smith, Stinson, Titsworth

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Calomino
Secretary Human Relations Commission
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