

**VILLAGE OF LANSING
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MEETING
CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS
MAY 16, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Valencia called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call revealed the following Commissioners present:
Valencia, Iwaszko, Quillin, Schaeffer, Smith
Roll call revealed Commissioners Bolz, Stinson, Titsworth and Wright were absent.
Commissioner Bolz arrived at 6:43 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Valencia asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2019 meeting.

Commissioner Iwaszko so moved.
Commissioner Smith seconded.

ROLL CALL

Yeas – 5
Nays – 0
Abstentions – 2
Minutes Approved

Iwaszko, Smith, Valencia, Schaeffer

Quillin

OLD BUSINESS

a) On the Table at the Lansing Library

Commissioners who attended On the Table and were present at the HRC meeting (Smith, Schaeffer and Valencia) all gave their input on the event. Commissioner Smith stated she would like to see new people attending in order to get new ideas. Commissioner Schaeffer talked about one of the groups suggesting cleaning businesses leading into Fox Pointe and also having the garbage cans in that area corralled. Chairman Valencia thought his group had quite a few good ideas, specifically a wish list to present to the Mayor. They would like to see a better turn out at the event.

b) Good Neighbor Day Parade

Commissioner Quillin stated it was a great first step for the commission to get their name out to the public. She said she enjoyed working with Lansing businesses on marketing materials. She also stated she appreciated Napleton Honda providing a truck for them to use at the parade. Commissioner Quillin stated it was very exhausting and felt there was not enough support from the commissioners. She suggested they look into a better way to manage their participation in the parade for next year.

CALL FOR PROJECT

a) Unite all community entities and build mutual understanding and respect for diverse cultures

Chairman Valencia presented the project he and Commissioner Stinson decided on for this goal. They would like the commission to host a forum twice a year. The forum would be 4-5 hours on a weekday evening or on a Saturday. The goal of the first forum is to gather leaders from Lansing, such as schools, organizations, government, churches, and businesses. They would have a guest speaker to speak for an hour and have two classroom settings, with the goal to educate our community about human relations. At the end of the meeting there would be a testimonial. It is in the planning stages.

Chairman Valencia introduced and announced Trustee Saad Abbasy as the liaison of the commission. He also stated that once all of the projects have been decided on, the commission will put in a formal request to the Village and they will approve the projects they want to move forward with. Once approved they can utilize the funds and resources needed.

b) Develop civic pride to foster personal equity

Commissioner Quillin presented several different ideas that Commissioners Quillin, Wright and Schaeffer had for their assigned goal. The first idea she shared is to have a new resident orientation that would include a welcome bag to new residents, particularly first-time home buyers. The welcome bag would include HRC material and the importance of inclusion within the community. Other ideas she shared were keeping Lansing clean and property upkeep, with the possibility of getting the youth involved with this program. There was also a block club discussion. She also wanted the commission to consider advertising in the Journal. Chairman Valencia stated that moving forward they would like to present their ideas at the next Village Board meeting and asked they focus on one idea at a time. He asked what idea this group should first work on. Commissioner Quillin stated the new resident orientation. Chairman Valencia also stated he has noticed that a lot of the ideas they come up with may already be in place in Lansing and the commission can build from them.

c) Communicate via methods that improve accessibility to all our residents to solicit their involvement

Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Bolz decided to provide a survey to residents as their first project on this goal to get feedback and expectations from residents. Commissioner Smith said she would like the commission to be at Cruise Night and present the survey, which would allow for face-to-face engagement with residents. She also asked that the commissioners take time on a Saturday to walk their block in their neighborhood and door knock to have residents fill out the survey. It will also be very beneficial to attend summer events. She also talked about walking on Ridge Road and Torrence Ave and approaching business owners and patrons. Another suggestion was to set up an area outside

of the Eisenhower Center and approach people at that location. Commissioner Bolz stated this is a good first step with the survey, but long term he would like to create a media plan or a longer range to create information to have on the website. There was discussion on ways to get the survey out to the public.

d) Meet & Greet

Commissioner Iwaszko and Commissioner Titsworth have been out of town and they did not have time to meet to discuss their goal. Commissioner Iwaszko suggested a meet and greet at the first Cruise Night on June 8, 2019. Chairman Valencia stated they will discuss this in the upcoming events on the agenda.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Chairman Valencia gave information to all commissioners for the opening event at Fox Pointe on May 29th: Hairbangers Ball at 7:00 p.m. He also informed them of Cruise Night on June 8th that is sponsored by L.A.C.E. and runs from 5:00 p.m.– 9:00 p.m., with a concert at Fox Pointe at 8:30 p.m.

The commissioners discussed the HRC being present at the first Cruise Night on June 8th. Chairman Valencia appointed Commissioner Smith to be in charge of this event. For marketing purposes, they agreed to use the Village logo and add Human Relations Commission under the logo. Handouts that include a calendar have already been created. There was discussion on what other items they will create to have for this event and future events and amount of funding for these items.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith to approve a budget of \$500.00 for Cruise Night on June 8th to be used for polo shirts for the commissioners, a banner, print costs for the survey and a giveaway.

Commissioner Iwaszko seconded.

ROLL CALL

Yeas – 6
Nays – 0

Smith, Iwaszko, Valencia, Bolz, Quillin, Schaeffer

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Schaeffer gave several suggestions to host a fun event on a Saturday at Fox Pointe. Commissioner Schaeffer also wanted to address the commission as a citizen and expressed he is uncomfortable and is intimidated about the proper way to follow rules in ways to get to know one another. He said he is a man of faith and shared a scripture with everyone entitled “Worth Fighting For”. Chairman Valencia stated he has a few ideas on ways for the commission to get know one another and will include it on next month’s agenda. Commissioner Bolz reminded them that they are all invited to his block party on June 22nd.

Commissioner Bolz and Chairman Valencia discussed having documentation that would allow the HRC to have an organized work plan

that would provide structure for the commission to achieve their goals and a time frame to carry out the plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Melanie Jongsma wanted to make one final appeal for the Common Ground Program. She introduced it several meetings ago and didn't want it to get lost in the shuffle and stated it would fall under the category of the goals for the commission.
2. Greg Harris stated that nothing scheduled at Fox Pointe appeals to him. He suggested an African Art Fest to be held at Fox Pointe. He also would like to see other concerts like the O"Jays performing. The last thing he addressed were the vacant businesses on Torrence Ave.
3. Melanie Jongsma invited all of the commissioners to her house for coffee and socialization. She stated it would be a good opportunity for everyone to get to know one another.
4. Debbie Albrecht from the Lansing Library invited the commissioners to attend the Lansing Library Block Party on June 7th, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. She also thanked the commissioners who attended On the Table event at the library.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Valencia asked for motion to adjourn at 7:43 p.m.

Commissioner Bolz so moved.
Commissioner Quillin seconded

ROLL CALL

Yeas - 6

Nays - 0 -

Meeting Adjourned

Bolz, Quillin, Valencia, Iwaszko, Schaeffer, Smith

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Calomino
Secretary Human Relations Commission
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