



Minutes

Royal Oak Human Rights Commission Meeting

June 3, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, Room 122
203 S. Troy Street
Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

Present: Rachel Andrews
Annie Urasky
Bob Luxon
Ashley Morel
Brett Tillander
Gerardo Aponte-Safe

Absent: Tiekeya Smith

Non-Voting Members Susan Barkman

Present: Alayna Brasch

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Agenda

Addition of Item 6e - discussion of student commissions' voting abilities.

Moved by: Bob Luxon

Seconded by: Brett Tillander

Motion Adopted

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Annie Urasky
Seconded by: Ashley Morel

Motion Adopted

5. Public Comment

Lisa Neeson: Gave Juneteenth update - expanding from just Centennial Commons to also include the Farmers Market. There will be a presentation speaker. The HRC is ready to go with their table at the event.

6. Business

6.a Update on Survey

The Survey Subcommittee met two weeks ago. Survey that uses both quantitative and qualitative measures. Still deciding on the questions that will be included. Networking mapping amongst the group could be helpful for the group in preparing to put out the survey. We're hoping to have some questions ready within the next two weeks to show to the group.

Ashley Morel brought up the company Huntington Woods' HRC used to do their community survey as a potential great example for us. Perhaps an assessment could be made in this decision regarding using a consultant's help.

Annie Urasky brought up the idea of the group utilizing the space the City gets on the Quality of Life survey, and then making a Survey Monkey specifically for visitors and business owners, because Quality of Life surveys are only taken by residents.

Resolution Number: Motion to approve of Susan Barkman to have the ability to use the remaining HRC 2023 budget for tabling event supplies & marketing materials for the survey

Moved by: Bob Luxon
Seconded by: Ashley Morel

Motion Adopted

6.b Recap of Naturalization Ceremony

Event went extremely well with HRC's presence.

6.c Discussion of Goal 2 Raising Awareness Built on Equity

Robert Luxon brought up the idea of cosponsoring and financially assisting more events down the line, like more naturalization ceremonies, for example.

Email Shelli at the Farmers Market to see if HRC could have a table one weekend this summer at the market.

6.d Discussion of Annual Report

HRC's annual report is due in August. A draft will be ready for the group to review at July's meeting.

Rachel Andrews brought up including the sessions in January and February that were done with Gerardo.

Ashley Morel brought up including the group's meetings with the Royal Oak Police Chief and Judge.

Brett Tillander brought up including what the group has coming up, and doing recognition of Tessa Abrutyn as our first student commissioner.

Annie Urasky brought up including who has served on the HRC, including Tessa, our previous student commissioner, Kim, a former member, and Gerardo, our newest member.

6.e Student Commissioners' Voting Abilities

Commissioner Herzog had two student commissioners from the environmental advisory board confront her about the fact that as of now, student members do not have the ability to vote in boards and commissions. Because the HRC is the only other board with student members, Commissioner Herzog is curious about how the group feels about looking into allowing student members the ability to vote at meetings.

Resolution Number: Motion to approve of the City Commission changing City Ordinance language to enable student members to vote at meetings

Moved by: Gerardo Aponte-Safe

Seconded by: Annie Urasky

Motion Adopted

7. Public Comment

None.

8. Commissioner Reports

Annie Urasky brought her draft for her upcoming Spotlight article about the HRC. She is asking group members who are going to the Pride and Juneteenth events to send her some info she can include for the article on these events.

Annie Urasky also talked about the group accepting the City Commissions' new Americans with Disabilities proclamation at a July Commission meeting.

Brett Tillander brought up the idea of the group recognizing Judge Meinecke for his work in getting the recent state bill passed.

Rachel Andrews suggested the group sends a card to and recognize the work of Royal Oak High School's Diversity Club's work in creating a LGBTQ+ book display/demonstration.

Resolution Number: Motion to approve of Rachel Andrews to reach out to Royal Oak High School on behalf of the group

Moved by: Rachel Andrews

Seconded by: Brett Tillander

Motion Adopted

9. Announcements

9.a HRC Communications

Susan Barkman is working on the group's editorial calendar.

9.b Next Meeting

Annie Urasky won't be at July's meeting.

9.c Hamer Finch Wilkens Park Update

The park sculpture is not quite ready for the unveiling the park. The city is now thinking of doing the ceremony in September (Underground Railroad recognition month).

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at (time).

Resolution Number: Motion to adjourn

Moved by: Ashley Morel

Seconded by: Bob Luxon

Motion Adopted