

Human Relations Commission  
CMO Conference Room  
519 Washington  
Minutes  
October 25, 2018

Meeting called to order by Werksma at 5:32pm.

Present: Dennis Swartout, Rhonda Kleyn, Chloe Weigel, Christian Hudson, Barbara VanHorsen, Reyna Masko and Louann Werksma

Absent: Lindsay Hartman and Alyson Brummitt

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved with the addition of Diversity Forum, review and set 2019 goals and absence policy.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Weigel to approve September 2018 minutes, seconded by Swartout, all in favor.

Welcome Guests: Wes McGee

There was no business under the general call to the audience.

#### Old Business

a. Dinner and Dialogue Updates:

1. October 22 event review-Werksma shared a summary of attendee survey results, very positive. VanHorsen commented she thought the acoustics were bad, very hard to hear others at the table, lots of noise from the kitchen. VanHorsen commented that she thinks this venue is too costly. Masko commented she thinks we can move forward without the cost of a paid professional facilitator, also thought acoustics were bad.
2. Sponsor Update-several members have made requests but no responses. Need to put some effort into sponsorships so we can have more dinners. Currently do not have enough funds to host another dinner at the current cost.
3. Location Update-Members agreed to shop for a lower cost venue. Suggestions of Gracious Grounds, Momentum Center, the Community Center and an individual's home which is the format other cities use when hosting these type of events. Group agreed the Commission could cover the cost of food prepared by the host.
4. Discussion of survey results-Tabled to November meeting. Werksma is going to email the actual surveys for the group to see.
5. Sub-Committee work-it was decided that Weigel and Masko would meet to plan a type of Mixer to be held in January that would include all of the dinner attendees to date. This would replace a December dinner. (As a footnote to this, in emails after

the meeting Werksma expressed it may be too soon to hold a mixer and would like to see the Commission stay committed to its idea of lower cost dinners. Weigel and Masko will not be meeting to discuss a mixer. Email thread will be attached to the minutes.)

#### New Business

- a. HRC Member Updates-Werksma reported McGee had met with the Mayor and would be sworn in as a new member, although the date for that is not yet known. This will fill the only open position.
- b. Agency Updates-
  1. VanHorsen provided updates for the Momentum Center. VanHorsen noted that the most recent Inspire event about the legalization of Marijuana in Michigan had a slightly lower than normal attendance but was a good nuanced conversation. A new group formed as a result of the Inspire events called Lakeshore Interfaith at the Bridge held an event that about 50 people attended. The Momentum Center has a new support group for parents of children with disabilities. Their Movie Nights continue to be well attended. Werksma noted the United Way's newest Community Assessment is out and can be seen on their website. Masko commented that the Ottawa County Diversity Forum is scheduled for Friday, November 16 at the Filmore Complex. The Commission agreed that if any member wishes to attend that they can be reimbursed the cost of attending by turning a receipt in to Kleyn. Masko also informed the group that the County is currently recruiting for their Equity Office position; hope to have it filled by mid-November. Weigel updated the group about her conference to be held at the GH High School March 13 and 14. The goal of the event is to inspire youth to be the change. The event will include a videotaped key note speaker and a resource type fair the second day.
- c. Budget-Kleyn presented an updated budget. The bill for LEDA has come in, the group has just about \$600, which is not enough for another Dinner and Dialogue event at the same cost as the first two.
- d. Accessibility Expo-Last year HRC member, Jean volunteered and helped plan this event held at the Community Center in March hosted by the Disability Network of Holland. The committee is asking for an HRC volunteer again, McGee agreed to speak with the committee to see if he is able to help.
- e. Attendance Policy-Kleyn presented the group a reminder about the attendance policy from the City Charter. If a member misses 4 consecutive meetings they will be removed as a member by the Mayor.
- f. Diversity Forum-Masko was asked to bring a proposal of a diversity statement to the November meeting as she has done the research on this topic to date.
- g. 2019 Goals-Tabled to November meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm. Next meeting is November 15 at 5:30pm.