

**City of Madison Heights
Human Relations and Equity Committee
Regular Meeting Agenda
Breckenridge Room
Madison Heights Public Library
Wednesday, March 9, 2022
6:00 PM**

1. Call to Order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call
3. Additions or Deletions from the Agenda
4. Meeting Open to the Public
5. Approval of Minutes February 9, 2022
6. MACC Grant for Juneteenth
7. HREC Meeting Day
8. Strategic Planning finalization
9. New Business
10. Adjournment

City of Madison Heights
300 West Thirteen Mile
Madison Heights, Oakland
County, Michigan 48071
(248) 583-0826

Minutes

Human Relations and Equity Commission (HREC)

Madison Heights Public Library, Breckenridge Room – February 9, 2022

Call to Order

Chairperson Moy called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Moy, Commissioner Szymanski, Commissioner Fox, and Commissioner Tutt, Commissioner K. Wright.

Also Present: City Liaison, Heather Hames.

Excused Absent: Counselor Q. Wright, Commissioner Guzynski, Counselor Rohrbach, and Commissioner Thompson.

Addition or Deletions from the Agenda

Juneteenth planning discussion moved up on the agenda.

Meeting Open to the Public

Melissa Marsh, City Manager

Keleila Wright, Madison Heights Citizens United

Michael Howard, Madison Heights Citizens United

Juneteenth Planning Discussion

Concerns:

- Planning discussions about the 2022 Juneteenth event have begun and Chairperson Moy expressed concern about meetings taking place about this event without the Human Rights and Equity Commission (HREC) present. Representatives from Madison Heights Citizens United (MHCU) had met with city staff to discuss whether or not a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would be needed or helpful in order to sort out the issue of having separate financials, and to clarify the roles of the City/HREC and MHCU. Since both the HREC and MHCU were involved in planning last year, Chairperson Moy was interested as to why the MOU draft in question had not included verbiage about the HREC's involvement.
- Commissioner K. Wright, also representing MHCU, addressed Chairperson Moy's concerns and added it was not his intent, nor the intent of MHCU to leave anyone out of the planning process. He further added that their goal is to catch up on planning as they are currently

further behind in the process than they would like, and want to have a successful Juneteenth event.

- Both Chairperson Moy and members of HREC agreed that it is also their wish for the Juneteenth event to be a success.

Statements from the Public:

- M. Marsh, City Manager, explained the need for one group, either HREC or MHCU, to be the leading organization for purposes of clear financial reporting - separate financials is crucial. Also a 501(c)(3) organization, MHCU would qualify for a wider range of grants and donations as opposed the HREC who would represent the City as a government entity. She added that the Juneteenth event is an important event for the city and wishes for its continued success.
- K. Wright, MHCU, stated that no planning has taken place and no decisions on tasks have been made. Last year's financials became very complicated because the MHCU non-profit status when approved was backdated to January so it is very important that it is sorted out this year before-hand.
- M. Howard, MHCU, stated that it would not make sense for MHCU to work on the event without HREC, as the partnership is very important, and that MHCU has more flexibility for meetings as a non-profit organization as opposed to the HREC which currently meets once per month.
- Commissioner Szymanski asked MHCU how they see HREC participating in the Juneteenth preparations.
- Commissioner K. Wright stated that the biggest help the HREC can get involved in is Education aspects of the Juneteenth event to reach and teach event attendees. The next most important planning aspects right now are to book food trucks and solicit more sponsors.
- M. Marsh suggested an HREC sub-committee.
- Chairperson Moy recommended 1-2 designated members, or rotating members of HREC on a sub-committee.
- Commissioner Fox recommended the same 2 designated members attend MHCU meetings for consistency, to strengthen the relationship and improve communication and suggested they could recruit volunteers for tasks as needed for the event.

Result:

Consensus in agreement that all involved want the Juneteenth event to be a success. MHCU will be the leading organization seeking donations, grant funding and handling all financial aspects of the Juneteenth event. Both HREC and MHCU are joint planning sponsors of the event. No MOU is needed.

Motion:

Motion by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Szymanski to appoint Commissioner Tutt and Chairperson Moy as HREC representatives to attend MHCU meetings to plan the Juneteenth event.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion passes.

Minutes of January 15, 2022

Motion by Commissioner Szymanski, seconded Commissioner K. Wright to approve the minutes of January 15, 2022 as corrected.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Motion passes.

Old Business

Chairperson Moy relinquished the floor to Commissioner Fox to continue the Strategic Planning process.

Some goal ideas gathered by email and/or small zoom meetings prior to this meeting.

- Coordination: Creation of teams
 - Internal/External Collaborations and Volunteers (nickname Fab Collab)
 - Counselor Q. Wright and H. Hames.
 - Goals include:
 - Create database of volunteers and partner organizations
 - Book Club that correlate with awareness/heritage months with panel discussions
 - Fundraising (nickname FUNdraisers)
 - Counselor Rohrbach and Commissioner Fox.
 - Goals include:
 - Collaborative fundraisers with Environmental and Friends of Madison Heights Public Library
 - Two family/fun or cultural fundraisers & a Cookbook
 - Examples: Bingo night, Noodle night, create community cookbook to sell
 - Fund 2 programs or events TBD
 - Advise & Educate (nickname BAB)
 - Chairperson Moy and Commissioner Tutt.
 - Goals include:
 - Educate the community about policy work
 - Identify policies related to HREC's purpose, focus on 2-3, meet with staff, research and make recommendations and present to council (example: arrests and mental illness or body cams)
 - Increase community engagement
 - Partner with local organizations to promote Mental Health Awareness Month
 - Communications
 - Commissioner Szymanski and Commissioner K. Wright.
 - Goals include:

- Make a monthly sign-up schedule for an HREC member to attend one council meeting each month and give a brief update of HREC happenings during Public Comment.
- HREC Facebook page – increase page likes to 500. Post 1 time per week goal.
- Note: public input from M. Howard that Facebook algorithms will not pick up on a post for one time per week. Recommended that the HREC post more frequently than once per week.
- Discussion of HREC FB admin page – Chairperson Moy would like to hand this role off to someone else. H. Hames volunteered.
- Commissioner Fox inquired about social media policy. H. Hames will find and share with HREC members.
- Timeline and Calendar
 - Commissioner Fox will plot the goals and objectives of each team on a calendar-like spreadsheet for review at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:02 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for March 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the Breckenridge Room at Madison Heights Public Library.