

HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD

WEDNESDAY, July 21, 2021

3:30 P.M.

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

Battle Creek City Hall

10 N. Division Street

"To increase constructive communication among all people regardless of actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, marital status, physical or mental disability, family status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socioeconomic status. To also increase constructive communication between residents, public officials, and community organizations, thereby promoting harmonious and productive relationships within the community, and equitable access to community resources for all."

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 21, 2021 AND May 19, 2021 AND June 16, 2021

C. OLD BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Welcome & (brief) Introductions
2. Scheduling Discussion: resuming in-person meetings, proposing skipping August and exploring time adjustment
3. Co-Chair Nomination
4. Citizens Review Board: updates, asks and discussion

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

F. BOARD COMMENTS

G. NEXT MEETING (September 15, 2021 – assuming approval to skip August)

H. ADJOURNMENT

PARKING LOT/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Identify departments/staff to share diversity and equity work with HRB
- English as a second language
- Disability access

**Human Relations Board
Battle Creek City Hall
10 N. Division St.
Virtual-ZOOM
Wednesday April 21, 2021
3:30 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Comm. Szenda Wilson, Comm. Herring, Chris Lussier, Joe Hooper, Jeffrey Cotton, Aubrey Kipp, Keona Ackley, Deana Spencer arrived late (3:48pm) and Whitney Wardell-all attendees were joining from Battle Creek Michigan

Board Members Absent: John Banks, Jennifer Gregor, Pam Lasley, Lori Lake and Emirrora Austin

Others Present: Rebecca Fleury, City Manager; Chief Blocker, Police

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Whitney Wardell, supported by Keona Ackley to approve the Human Relations Board minutes of March 17, 2021. All yes, none opposed. Motion approved.

Public Comment: moved after New Business

Old Business: removed from agenda

New Business:

1. Introductions and Welcome of Board Members, introductions took place
2. Equity Audit Timeline- presentation by Rebecca Fleury
 - a. Ms. Fleury noted the acceptance by the City Commission to move forward with the firm MGT Consultants, to conduct the equity audit.
 - b. The purpose project schedule was shared.
 1. Comm. Szenda Wilson requests updates be provided to this Board.
3. Equity in Action: Priority Based Budgeting Feedback-presented by Comm. Szenda Wilson
 - a. Comm. Szenda Wilson shared feedback on the budget survey, noting a resident's suggestions for the gender question on the survey to be more inclusive.
4. Transparency in Policing-presentation by Chief Blocker
 - a. Comm. Szenda Wilson shared a video on how to approach a situation in an empathic way while making connections.
 - b. Comm. Szenda Wilson share information on Targeted Universalism.
 - c. Chief Blocker engaged in discussion and answered questions form the Board.
 - i. Carey Whitfield provided comments on transparency and community involvement.
 - ii. Rev. Bell, Chaplin for BCPD, provided his prospective on transparency and internal policing within the Police Department.
 - d. Chief Blocker noted he is open to additional conversations with this Board and Community members.

Public Comments: Jeff Breedlove shared his appreciation of the work being done by this Board.

Board Comments: Comm. Herring commented several groups in the community are working on a Citizen Review Board and should work together to combined efforts.

Deana Spencer share her appreciation for all the open honesty.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Human Relations Board May 19, 2021 at 3:30 pm.

Adjournment: Chair, Comm. Szenda Wilson adjourned the meeting at 4:49 pm.

**Human Relations Board
Battle Creek City Hall
10 N. Division St.
Virtual-ZOOM
Wednesday May 19, 2021
3:30 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Comm. Szenda Wilson, Comm. Herring, Joe Hooper, Jeffrey Cotton, Aubrey Kipp, Keona Ackley, Chris Lussier
Deana Spencer arrived late (3:48pm) and Whitney Wardell-all attendees were joining from Battle Creek Michigan and Pam Lasley attending from Springfield.

Board Members Absent: John Banks, Jennifer Gregor, Lori Lake and Emirrora Austin

Others Present: Ted Dearing, Assistant City Manager; Chief Blocker, Police; Michelle Hull, Human Resources Director

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm.

Approval of Minutes: A quorum was not present, the April 21, 2021 meeting minutes will be addressed at the next meeting.

Public Comment: moved after New Business

Old Business: removed from agenda

New Business:

1. Introductions and Welcome of Board Members took place
2. Equity in Action: utilizing Targeted Universalism as our frame-explore the feeling of “safety” presented by Comm. Szenda Wilson.

Comm. Szenda Wilson review citizen responses to a community survey listing priorities for the allocation of resources, with safety being at the top.

The Board discussed what “safety” means within our communities/populations.

Public Comments: There were none.

Board Comments: Deana Spencer share her appreciation of all for their openness and honesty.

Mr. Hooper shared the Splash Pad Grand Opening dates moving to June 12th for clean-up at 11:00am and June 26th at 12:00pm.

Comm. Herring note the Splash Pad opening date has been delay for the City to install additional walk ways so the Splash Pad will be accessible to all. Also sharing the BC Cargo opening is Tuesday June 1st at 10:00 am.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Human Relations Board June 16, 2021 at 3:30 pm.

Adjournment: Chair, Comm. Szenda Wilson adjourned the meeting at 4:37 pm.

**Human Relations Board
Battle Creek City Hall
10 N. Division St.
Virtual-ZOOM
Wednesday June 16, 2021
3:30 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Comm. Szenda Wilson, Joe Hooper, Jeffrey Cotton, Keona Ackley, Chris Lussier, Jennifer Gregor and Deana Spencer all attending virtually from Battle Creek, Pam Lasley attending from Springfield.

Board Members Absent: John Banks, Lori Lake, Emirora Austin, Comm. Herring, Aubrey Kipp and Whitney Wardell

Others Present: Rebecca Fleury, City Manager; Deputy Chief Grafton, Police; Michelle Hull, Human Resources Director

Guests: Dr. Fred Seamon, Andres Bernal and Vernetta Mitchell all from MGT

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:31pm.

Approval of Minutes: A quorum was not present, the April 21, 2021, May 19, 2021 meeting minutes will be addressed at the next meeting.

Old Business: none

New Business:

1. Welcoming and introductions of Board Members and Guest from MGT took place.
2. MGT provided a presentation and overview of the Equity Audit process and discussion took place.
3. Comm. Szenda Wilson reviewed the discussion that took place at the May 19, HRB meeting around the Priority Based Budgeting Community Survey results focused on safety in the community, and how the HRB could leverage the Boards position.
4. PRIDE document: review, reflections and recommendations to be taken the City Commission, present by Deana Spencer and discussed by the Board.

A quorum was not present, the Board members present supported taking the recommendation of flying the Pride flag to be taken to the City Commissions.

Ms. Fleury noted although a recommendation from the HRB would add value to this requested, 3 City Commissioners could place a recommendation before the Commission for considerations.

Comm. Szenda Wilson stated she would move forward with the process of having 3 City Commissioners take to the full Commission for recommendation.

Public Comments: There were none.

Board Comments: Comm. Szenda Wilson noted the July and August HRB meetings will still be virtually attended.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Human Relations Board July 21, 2021 at 3:30 pm, attending virtually

Adjournment: Chair, Comm. Szenda Wilson adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.