

**Human Relations Board
Battle Creek City Hall
10 N. Division St.
Virtual-ZOOM
Wednesday January 20, 2021
3:30 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Comm. Wilson, Comm. Blood, Whitney Wardell (arrived at 4:00 pm), Chris Lussier, Deana Spencer (left at 4:30 pm) and John Banks

Board Members Absent: Jill Wood, Joe Hooper and Jennifer Gregor

Others Present: Alicia Greene, Deputy City Clerk; Rebecca Fleury, City Manager; Deputy Chief Grafton, Police; Michelle Hull, HR Director

GUEST: None

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

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Comm. Blood, supported by Deana Spencer, to approve the Human Relations Board minutes of September 16, 2020 and October 21, 2020. All yes, none opposed. Motion approved.

New Business: Rebecca Fleury called the meeting to order and noted the need to elect a new Chair Person and Vice Chair Person.

Ms. Fleury reviewed the history and purpose of the Human Relations Board and potential future work. Ms. Fleury reviewed the need for additional Board members and the availability of applications on the City web site.

Mr. Lussier gave an overview of past work done by the HRB and past membership recruitment.

Ms. Fleury explained the roles and responsibilities of a Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr. Lussier, supported by John Banks, nominated Comm. Wilson for Chair and Whitney Wardell as Vice Chair of the HRB. All yes, none opposed. Motion approved.

Comm. Blood, supported by Deana Spencer, moved to approve the meeting schedule for 2021. All yes, none opposed. Motion approved.

Ms. Fleury shared the progress around doing an Equity Audit.

The Board expressed interest in being involved, on some level, with the Equity Audit.

The Board discussed their roles, responsibilities and Board member outreach.

Mr. Lussier shared information on an affirmative marketing plan in housing.

The Board would like to adopt an equity statement for the Human Relations Board.

Comm. Wilson suggested taking time to get to know what strengths are currently on the Board and a potential future spring retreat.

Deputy Chief Grafton shared the Police Department's desire to partner with the Board on community engagement.

Public Comments: None

Old Business: None

Board Comments: Mr. Banks stated one of the prior issues the HRB worked on was Fair Housing issues, which was one of the best things the Board has assisted with.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Human Relations Board February 17, 2021.

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