

**Human Relations Board
Battle Creek City Hall
10 N. Division St.
Room 302A
&
Virtual-ZOOM
Wednesday February 21, 2024
4:00 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Kathy Szenda Wilson, Charles Asher, Josita Todd, Joe Hooper, Eva Masters, Roger Ballard, Jeffrey Cotton (4:03pm) and Deana Spencer (4:17pm), - all attending in person attending in person. Keona Ackley, (4:07pm) attending remotely from the City of Battle Creek and Derrick Freeman (4:20pm—4:26pm) attending remotely from Jackson, Mississippi.

Staff: DEI Officer, Kimberly Holley; Police Chief Bagley (4:34pm); Rebecca Forbes, Executive Assistant

Guests: Andy Helmboldt

Board Members Absent: Donald Woodward (aka Pao Shan), Boonikka Herring, Lyanne Wesley, Jennifer Metzger, Rebecca Fleury, Whitney Wardell

Ex-Officio: There were none.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Charles Asher, supported by Derrick Freeman, to approve the Human Relations Board minutes of January 17, 2024. All yes, none opposed. Motion approved.

Communications: Kimberly Holley, DEI Officer provided an update on the Community Oversight Board in the Agenda packet.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Old Business: There was none.

New Business: Charge of the Human Relations Board

Kathy Szenda Wilson introduced Andy Helmboldt, previous HRB chair and former City Commissioner.

Mr. Helmboldt provided information on the history of the Human Relations Board and its role as a conduit between the City and Citizens.

Ms. Holley noted the current work of the DEI office is focused internally, regarding practice/policies. Ms. Holley provided information on how other communities utilize their Human Relations Boards/Commission.

The Board discussed the direction of the Human Relations Board.

The Board discussed the demographics of the HRB and recruiting to be more inclusive of the community.

Community Points of Interest: Josita Todd shared information on a state wide report on child abuse and neglect naming Calhoun County as one of three Counties with excessive issues. Ms. Todd would like to highlight and address some of these issues with the community.

Chief Bagley shared an update on the Café' Rica incident.

Ms. Szenda Wilson offered send a card to Café' Rica on the behalf of the HRB.

Public Comments: There were none.

Board Comments: Ms. Todd suggested Implicit Bias training be part of the DEI offices agenda. Ms. Szenda Wilson requested the same information be shared with the HRB as well.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Human Relations Board March 20, 2024 @ 4:00 pm in Room 302A and available by Zoom.

Adjournment: Kathy Szenda Wilson adjourned the meeting at 5:23pm.