

**Human Relations Board
Battle Creek City Hall
10 N. Division St.
Room 302A
&
Virtual-ZOOM
Wednesday August 16, 2023
4:00 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Kathy Szenda Wilson, Chuck Asher, Derrick Freeman, Keona Ackley, Joe Hooper, and Deana Spencer (4:06pm) - all attending in person. Donald Woodward (aka Pao Shan) remotely from the City of Kalamazoo.

Staff: Deputy City Clerk, Alicia Greene; DEI Officer, Kimberly Holley; Police Chief Bagley

Guests: There were none.

Board Members Absent: Jeffrey Cotton, Boonikka Herring, Lyanne Wesley, Whitney Wardell and Jennifer Metzger

Ex-Officio members Absent: Rebecca Fleury and Comm. Roger Ballard

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

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Derrick Freeman, supported by Chuck Asher, to approve the Human Relations Board minutes of June 21, 2023. All yes, none opposed. Motion approved.

Communications: There were none.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Old Business: Kimberly Holley provided an updated status on the DEI Action Plan which was submitted to the City Commission. Ms. Holley will begin conducting round table discussions with City Departments/Employees and gather additional surveys to develop the plan further. The next phase will involve community round tables.

Ms. Szenda Wilson discussed the expectation of the HRB in developing the Citizens Review & Oversight Board (CROB). Ms. Szenda Wilson expressed a desire to develop a task force to include members of the HRB to take the CROB from conception to implementation.

Ms. Holley stated the CROB members will have a tremendous responsibility and will require a vast amount of knowledge and a firm commitment.

Ms. Szenda Wilson clarified the CROB will be a separate entity not tied the HRB. Further stating the work of the HRB happens once a month for an hour, noting much more intentionality will need to be applied for the CRB to work effectively move forward. Ms. Szenda Wilson suggested requesting the CROB be a compensated board, due to the level of training, commitment and work being requested.

Language Access discussion will be tabled for a later meeting, requesting a City representative join the meeting.

Public Comments: There were none.

New Business: There was none.

Community Points of Interest: Ms. Spencer shared concerns with Police interactions in the community related to a gathering at The Parma House.

Ms. Ackley requesting information on the steps taken if someone files a false police report.

Chief Bagley provided an overview of the process and resources available.

Public Comments: There were none.

Board Comments: Ms. Szenda Wilson would like to revisit extending the time allowed for the HRB meetings.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Human Relations Board September 20, 2023 @ 4:00 pm in Room 302A and available by Zoom.

Adjournment: Ms. Kathy Szenda Wilson adjourned the meeting at 5:03 pm.