

**Minutes – Approved
Human Rights Commission
Monday, November 6, 2023
6:30pm
City Hall, Room 116
203 S. Troy Street, Royal Oak, Michigan**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31

2. Roll Call

Present: Brett Tillander, Robert Luxon, Rachel Andrews, Ashley Morel, Tessa Abrutyn, Paul Brake, Annie Urasky

Absent: Tiekeya Smith, Susan Barkman

Others present: Alayna Brasch

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda.

Motion by: Robert Luxon

Second: Brett Tillander

Unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes – [October 16, 2023](#)

Motion: To amend the minutes to acknowledge Kim's departure and thank her for her service.

Motion by: Robert Luxon

Second: Ashley Morel

Unanimously approved

5. Public Comment

Irene Leets, a new resident, introduced herself.

6. Business

1. Funding Request – Magnets

The group agreed the magnets were a good starting point with regard to the work the HRC will get done this upcoming year. Annie Urasky suggested checking out Oakland County's relevant resources. The magnet will be kept on the agenda and seen to completion

2. [Membership in Government Alliance for Race and Ethnicity](#)

The group agreed the city's membership to GARE should be evaluated on an annual basis. Members who wish to learn more can do so by registering for a Zoom info session on Tuesday, November 21 at 1pm.

Motion: To approve of the city becoming a GARE member, with membership to

be reviewed on a yearly basis.
Motion by: Brett Tillander
Second: Robert Luxon
Motion approved unanimously.

3. **2024 Meeting Schedule**

Wrong copy of schedule at meeting; new one with correct dates will be sent out
Motion: To approve of the correct 2024 meeting dates.
Motion by: Ashley Morel
Second: Annie Urasky

4. **2024-2025 Funding Request**

Commissioners will come back to December meeting with ideas for Programming and whether to amend the budget, and come up with a funding request. They think \$15,000 may be a good starting point for their funding request.

5. **Discussion on Future Survey**

The idea of doing focus groups was found to be interesting. Will wait until the group works on the strategic plan in January to get into this more.

7. **Public Comment**

Lisa Neeson - Capturing the opinions of Royal Oak's visitors is an important group to remember (not just residents).
Irine Leets - Brought up Elijah Anderson book she got from the library on race.

8. **Commissioner Reports**

Robert Luxon - acknowledging Native American Heritage Month and the survivors and those lost from boarding schools
Annie Urasky - Fair Housing meeting on Wednesday with Civil Rights Commission; Fair Housing Summit in June 2024
Brett Tillander - talked to Judge Meinecke, House bill discussed in October meeting passed the Senate, and is going back to the House. Also touched on the fear being felt within Jewish and Muslim communities currently. Mentioned the importance of being aware.

9. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn.
Motion by: Robert Luxon
Second: Annie Urasky
No objection.

10. **Next Meeting - 6:30pm December 4, 2023**