

Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting  
Madison Heights, Michigan  
November 28, 2023

A Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 5:00 PM at Library - Breckenridge Room, 240 W. 13 Mile Rd.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm by Chair Szymanski.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **PRESENT**

Chair Paige Szymanski  
Rebecca Chambliss  
Nickole Fox  
Syed Murtaza-Rose  
Alec Yu  
Council Representative Quinn Wright

#### **ALSO PRESENT**

Student Delegate Colton Chambliss, Staff Liaison Heather Hames

#### **EXCUSED ABSENT**

Council Representative Alternate Emily Rohrbach

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of October 11, 2023

Motion made by Murtaza-Rose to approve the minutes of October 11, 2023. Seconded by Fox. Passed unanimously.

### **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

No one present wishing to speak.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

2. Automotive Hall of Fame Traveling Exhibit

Motion made by Murtaza-Rose to have Chambliss explore what is needed in order to arrange for the traveling exhibit called "Achievement" from the Automotive Hall of Fame to be displayed in Madison Heights in 2024. Seconded by Yu. Passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

3. Meeting Date Options for 2024

Motion made by Chambliss to meet on the third Thursday of the month in 2024. Seconded by Council Representative Wright. Passed unanimously.

Motion made Murtaza-Rose to move the October meeting date due to the Sukkot holiday and instead meet on October 10, 2024. Seconded by Chambliss. Passed unanimously.

4. Freeway Noise Pollution

Motion made by Murtaza-Rose to recommend to City Council a further investigation of freeway sound pollution and to hold a town hall meeting on the topic. Seconded by Yu. Passed unanimously.

5. Parking Permits on Garbage Day

Motion made by Yu to have Chair Szymanski collect information about parking permits and related fees, statistics, and other related data. Seconded by Chambliss. Passed unanimously.

### **WORKPLAN 2023 REVIEW**

6. Work Plan 2023 Review

Motion by Chambliss to continue to Advise City Council on diversity and inclusion issues as opportunities arise and keep this as an ongoing goal in the 2024 Work Plan. Seconded by Fox. Passed unanimously.

Motion by Chambliss to continue to participate in a meaningful way in the Juneteenth event and keep this as an ongoing goal in the 2024 Work Plan. Seconded by Yu. Passed unanimously.

7. The Cookbook Project

The cookbook project has made progress with a vendor selected and process in place to collect recipes and stories from the community.

Motion by Chambliss to carry over the cookbook project into the 2024 Work Plan. Seconded by Yu. Passed unanimously.

8. Diverse Voices - 2023 Statistics

The Diverse Voices book talks have been successful with an increase in in-person attendance and large circulation numbers for the titles selected.

Motion made by Murtaza-Rose to continue the book club and include it in the 2024 Work Plan and to allocate \$250.00 towards the purchase of selected titles for the time period January - June 2024. Seconded by Yu. Passed unanimously.

### **WORKPLAN 2024**

The Motorama & Smoke event planned in Fall 2023 was cancelled. Motion made by Murtaza-Rose to add the Motorama & Smoke event to the 2024 Work Plan with a goal of having the event in July 2024. Seconded by Chambliss. Passed unanimously.

9. Rename Diverse Voices

The intention of the Diverse Voices book club to be inclusive. Current trends indicate naming book clubs or books as diverse has a dividing or separating result instead. Motion made by Yu to

rename the book club to now be known as Novels & Neighbors. Seconded by Chambliss. Passed unanimously.

10. Book Selections 2024

Motion made by Yu to include a wider variety of types of fiction titles selected for the book club, such as fantasy and to select titles for the 2024 year as follows:

People can submit any book recommendations to Staff Liaison Hames through December 10, 2023. Public voting will take place between December 11-16, 2023 for the time period of January - June 2024 and will repeat the process for the July - December 2024 time period in Spring 2024.

11. 2024 Calendar with Social Media Content

Motion made by Murtaza-Rose to add having a 2024 Calendar including social media content in the 2024 Work Plan. Seconded by Chambliss. Passed unanimously.

Motion made by Murtaza-Rose to appoint Yu as the social media volunteer for the Human Relations and Equity Commission. Seconded by Chambliss. Passed unanimously.

Motion made by Murtaza-Rose to request the creation of an HREC Instagram page for the HREC to use to engage with the community. Seconded by Yu. Passed unanimously.

Motion made by Murtaza-Rose to approve the 2024 Work Plan. Seconded by Fox. Passed unanimously.

12. MLK Event and Service Project 2024

MLK Jr. event still in planning stages.

**ADJOURNMENT**

NOTICE: Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation through electronic means in this meeting should contact the City Clerk at (248) 583-0826 or by email: [clerks@madison-heights.org](mailto:clerks@madison-heights.org) at least two working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.

**MADISON HEIGHTS HUMAN RELATIONS AND EQUITY COMMISSION  
2024 STRATEGIC PLAN**

<b>Name of Project, Goal</b>	<b>Benefit if completed</b>	<b>Timeline for Completion</b>	<b>Resources needed (staff support, subcommittee, fundraising)</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>	<b>Priority</b>
2024 Calendar with social media content	Increase exposure to a wide variety of cultural and religious holidays, celebrations, and days of recognition to individuals in Madison Heights and beyond	January 2024 for calendar, February 2024 for social media content	May require coordination on city website, with city personnel and other cultural and religious calendars	Increase awareness measured by social media engagement	High
Advise City Council on diversity and inclusion issues as opportunities arise	Diverse viewpoints and experiences will be considered by City Council	December 2024	May require coordination or sharing of or requesting information with city departments	City Council takes information presented by HREC under advisement during decision-making process	High
Juneteenth: Participate in a meaningful way in Juneteenth	City will have a continued presence in planning and participation of the Juneteenth event	June 2024	May require coordination with police, fire department, and DPS	HREC has presence at the Juneteenth event	High

Motorama & Smoke: Plan and execute car show and cooking competition	Citizens will have an opportunity to find common interests through hobbies and shared experiences	July 2024	May require coordination with police, fire department, and DPS as well as other outside organizations such as schools and businesses	HREC organizes and hosts a successful event based on event participation and attendance	High
Cookbook Project: Collect recipes and sell community cookbook.	Citizens will have an opportunity to contribute to cookbook and use recipes from their neighbors; HREC will fundraise	November 2024	May require coordination on city website to collect recipes online	Product is available for order and digital access by tree lighting.	Medium
Book Club: Continue monthly book club and develop opportunities for outreach to the community and in schools.	Increase exposure to different viewpoints and cultures to individuals in Madison Heights and beyond	December 2024	Physical location to host the book club meetings; collaboration with library for book selection and book availability for circulation.	Continue to see interest in the book club book based on (1) increases to circulation of selected books, and (2) increases in number of participants at book club meetings.	Medium