



**CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS**

**LIBRARY - BRECKENRIDGE ROOM, 240 W. 13 MILE RD.**

**HUMAN RELATIONS AND EQUITY COMMITTEE MEETING  
AGENDA**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 AT 6:00 PM**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- [1.](#) Minutes of August 15, 2024

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**HREC OFFICERS**

2. Officers

**REPORTS**

- [3.](#) Book Club Update
4. Calendar and Social Media Content
5. Cookbook Update
6. Revin' in the Heights Update
- [7.](#) Summary Report August 2023 - July 2024

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**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.

Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting  
Madison Heights, Michigan  
August 15, 2024

A Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting was held on Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Library – Breckenridge Room, 240 W. 13 Mile Rd.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Murtaza-Rose at 6:06 pm.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **PRESENT**

Aaron Brown  
Syed Murtaza-Rose  
Jessica Showers  
Council Representative Quinn Wright

Also present, Heather Hames, Staff Liaison.

#### **EXCUSED ABSENT**

Chair Paige Szymanski  
Nickole Fox

#### **ABSENT**

Rebecca Chambliss  
Alec Yu  
Madison Student Delegate Colton Chambliss  
Council Representative Alternate Emily Rohrbach

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approval of the Minutes of July 18, 2024

Motion to approve minutes of July 18, 2024 as corrected made by Murtaza-Rose,  
Seconded by Brown. All ayes. Motion passes unanimously.

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

No one present wishing to speak.

### **WORK PLAN UPDATES**

2. Book Club

Book club attendance is increasing - August's meeting had 8 people and 5 were new people.

3. Calendar and Social Media Content

September social media posts will acknowledge Labor Day, September 2 - Wright; Michigan Indian Day September 27 - Fox or Hames; 9/11 - Brown; Hispanic Heritage Month - Hames; and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month - Murtaza-Rose.

4. Cookbook

5. Rev'n in the Heights

Dort and DTE sponsorships completed. DJ and 3 food trucks are scheduled.

Volunteers needed for the day of the event, especially to help with direction for parking. Note that the section of parking lot west of the Library will be closed, Hames will notify Library Director in order to let library patrons know in advance.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

6. Arts and Pride 2025 Committee Assignment

Motion by Murtaza-Rose to appoint Jessica Showers to Arts and Pride committee with members of Arts Board, Seconded by Brown. All ayes, motion passes unanimously.

7. Communication Boards Update

City Staff are meeting with Autism Alliance to prepare Communication Boards for City parks.

8. Disability Pride Month 2025 Committee Assignment

Discussed, no action taken.

9. Poetry in the Park 2025

Discussed, no action taken.

10. MLK Day of Service

Discussed, no action taken.

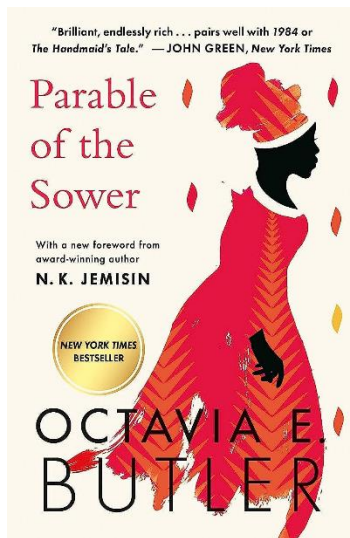
## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

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## NOVELS AND NEIGHBORS BOOK CLUB 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF EVEN MONTHS AT 6 PM

October 8



### Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler

In 2024, with the world descending into madness and anarchy, one woman begins a fateful journey toward a better future.

Lauren Olamina and her family live in one of the only safe neighborhoods remaining on the outskirts of Los Angeles. Behind the walls of their defended enclave, Lauren's father, a preacher, and a handful of other citizens try to salvage what remains of a culture that has been destroyed by drugs, disease, war, and chronic water shortages. While her father tries to lead people on the righteous path, Lauren struggles with hyperempathy, a condition that makes her extraordinarily sensitive to the pain of others. When fire destroys their

compound, Lauren's family is killed and she is forced out into a world that is fraught with danger. With a handful of other refugees, Lauren must make her way north to safety, along the way conceiving a revolutionary idea that may mean salvation for all mankind.

December 10



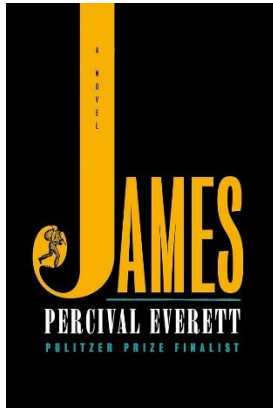
### Season of Love by Helena Greer

Miriam Blum has no choice but to face the past she thought she'd left behind when she inherits her great-aunt's Christmas tree farm in this witty, glittering, heart-filled romcom. Thanks to her thriving art career, Miriam Blum finally has her decoupaged glitter ducks in a row—until devastating news forces her to a very unwanted family reunion. Her beloved great-aunt Cass has passed and left Miriam part-owner of Carrigan's, her (ironically) Jewish-run Christmas tree farm.

But Miriam's plans to sit shiva, avoid her parents, then put Carrigan's in her rearview mirror are spoiled when she learns the business is at risk of going under. To have any chance at turning things around, she'll need to work with the farm's grumpy manager—as long as the attraction sparking between them doesn't set all their trees on fire

first. Noelle Northwood wants Miriam Blum *gone*—even if her ingenious ideas and sensitive soul keep showing Noelle there's more to Cass's niece than meets the eye. But saving Carrigan's requires trust, love, and risking it all—for the chance to make their wildest dreams come true.

February 11



### James by Percival Everett

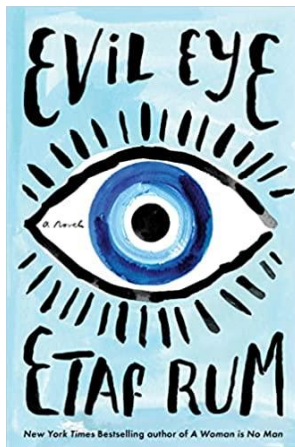
A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, both harrowing and ferociously funny, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan.

Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, recently returned to town. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down

the Mississippi River toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond. While many narrative set pieces of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* remain in place (floods and storms, stumbling across both unexpected death and unexpected treasure in the myriad stopping points along the river's banks, encountering the scam artists posing as the Duke and Dauphin...), Jim's agency, intelligence and compassion are shown in a radically new light.

April 8



### Evil Eye by Etaf Rum

The acclaimed New York Times bestselling author of *A Woman Is No Man* returns with a striking exploration of the expectations of Palestinian-American women, the meaning of a fulfilling life, and the ways our unresolved pasts affect our presents.

Raised in a conservative and emotionally volatile Palestinian family in Brooklyn, Yara thought she would finally feel free when she married a charming entrepreneur who took her to the suburbs. She's gotten to follow her dreams, completing an undergraduate degree in Art and landing a good job at the local college. As a traditional wife, she also raises their two school-

aged daughters, takes care of the house, and has dinner ready when her husband gets home. With her family balanced with her professional ambitions, Yara knows that her life is infinitely more rewarding than her own mother's. So why doesn't it feel like enough? After her dream of chaperoning a student trip to Europe evaporates and she responds to a colleague's racist provocation, Yara is put on probation at work and must attend mandatory counseling to keep her position. Her mother blames a family curse for the trouble she's facing, and while Yara doesn't really believe in old superstitions, she still finds herself growing increasingly uneasy with her mother's warning and the possibility of falling victim to the same mistakes. Shaken to the core by these indictments of her life, Yara finds her carefully constructed world beginning to implode. To save herself, Yara must reckon with the reality that the difficulties of the childhood she thought she left behind have very real—and damaging—implications not just on her own future but that of her daughters.

## City of Madison Heights Human Relations and Equity Commission Summary

August 1, 2023 – July 31, 2024

Prepared by Heather Hames, Staff Liaison

### Meetings & Staff Liaison Hours

	Meeting	Agenda	Minutes	Book Club*	Social Media	Staff Hours	Notes
8/1/2023	1.75	1	1	1	0.5	5.25	
8/21/2023	0.5	0.5	0.5			1.5	
8/31/2023	1.5	1	1		3	6.5	September Meeting
10/11/2023	1	1	1	1	0.5	4.5	
11/28/2023	1.75	1	1	1	0.5	5.25	
12/1/2023					1	1	No Business
1/18/2024	1	1	1	1	2	6	
2/15/2024	1	1	1	1		4	
3/21/2024	1.5	1	1	1	1	5.5	
4/4/2024	0.5	0.5	0.5			1.5	
4/18/2024	0.5	1	1	1	0.5	4	
5/16/2024	1.75	1	1	1		4.75	
6/20/2024	1.5	1	1	1	1	5.5	
7/18/2024	1.5	1	1	1	0.5	5	
						4	Summary Report
13 Meetings						64.25	Total Staff Hours (estimated)

### Programs & Events

- August 2, 2023 – Jewish History Talk on Detroit, approximately 12 attendees combined (2 dates).
- August 6, 2023 - Jewish Detroit Bus Tour in collaboration with the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, approximately 30 attendees.
- September 17, 2023 - Native Plant Sale Fundraiser raised \$1,337.42
- October 14, 2023 – Motorama & Smoke event planned, cancelled due to weather.
- May 2024 – City Manager presentation at HREC led to discussion of Communication Boards for City parks, currently under way in partnership with Autism Alliance of Michigan.



### Community Event Participation

November 2023 – Madison School District World Fair night sharing information about HREC and promoting the book club, cookbook project, and other activities.

November 27, 2023 – Participated in the City’s Annual Tree Lighting

March 2024 – Oakland County Bar Association promoting and sharing information with local schools about this mock trial program to educate youth about the justice system.

June 15, 2024 – Juneteenth

June 23, 2024 – Arts & Pride event

July 2024 – Disability Pride Month ADA Anniversary Celebration. Co-sponsored with Madison Heights Arts Board.

### Novels and Neighbors Book Club

The book club name changed in November 2023 from Diverse Voices in order to be more inclusive.

<b>Ttile</b>	<b>In Person</b>	<b>Print</b>	<b>Book on CD</b>	<b>Libby ebook</b>	<b>Libby audio</b>	
Warrior Girl Unearthed	3	12	0	5	9	<b>29</b>
Olga Dies Dreaming	4	17	0	0	3	<b>24</b>
Before I Let Go	2	13	0	2	4	<b>21</b>
Stealing	3	19	0	0	6	<b>28</b>
Maus	3	16	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>19</b>
Children of Blood and Bone	5	34	0	0	13	<b>52</b>
The Little Liar	3	26	7	13	5	<b>54</b>
Heaven & Earth Grocery Store	5	85	14	31	39	<b>174</b>
Welcome to the Hyunam-Dong Bookshop	5	38	n/a	4	3	<b>50</b>
A Fire So Wild	3	21	n/a	0	2	<b>26</b>
Hula	4	17	n/a	3	6	<b>30</b>
<b>Total Participation</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>507</b>

### Cookbook Project

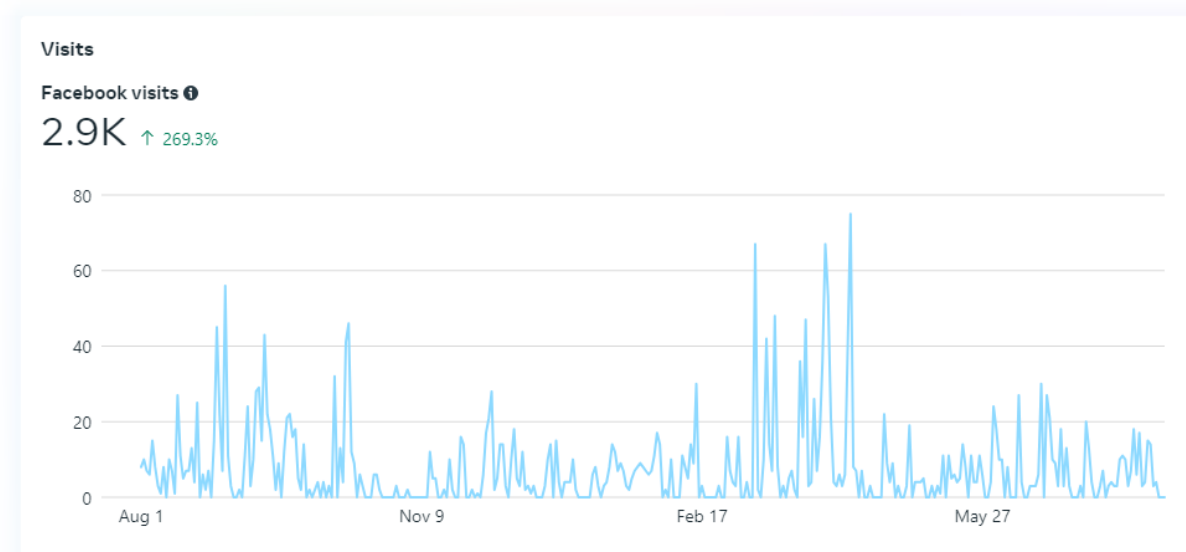
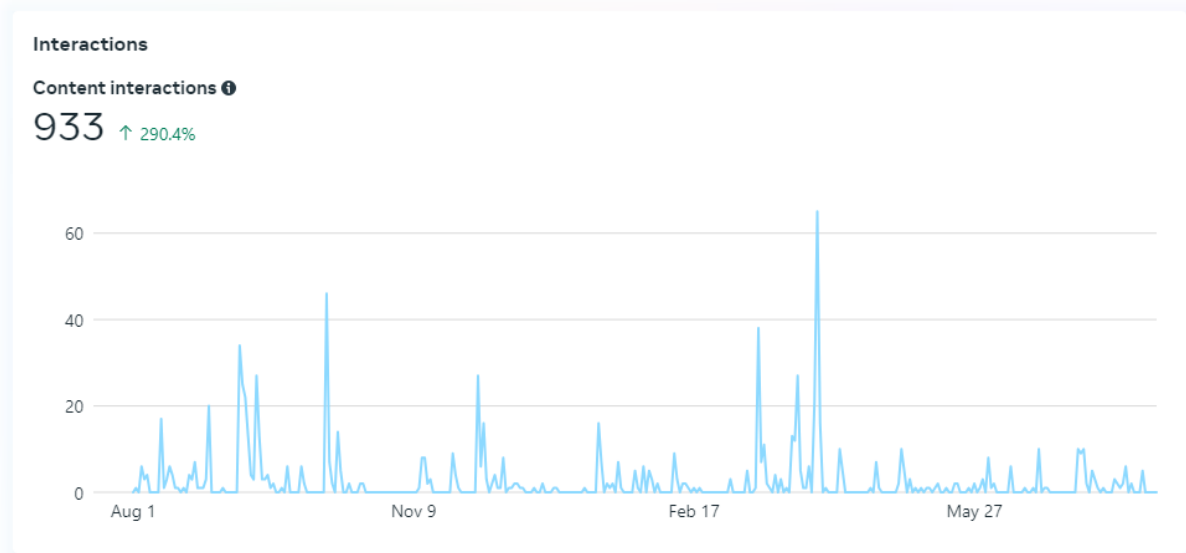
The cookbook project is ongoing. Currently still in the process of promoting the project and collecting recipes. Seeking recipes from individuals, businesses, City Leadership, City staff, and other community members.

[Submit Recipes Here](#)



### Social Media Content Calendar and Engagement

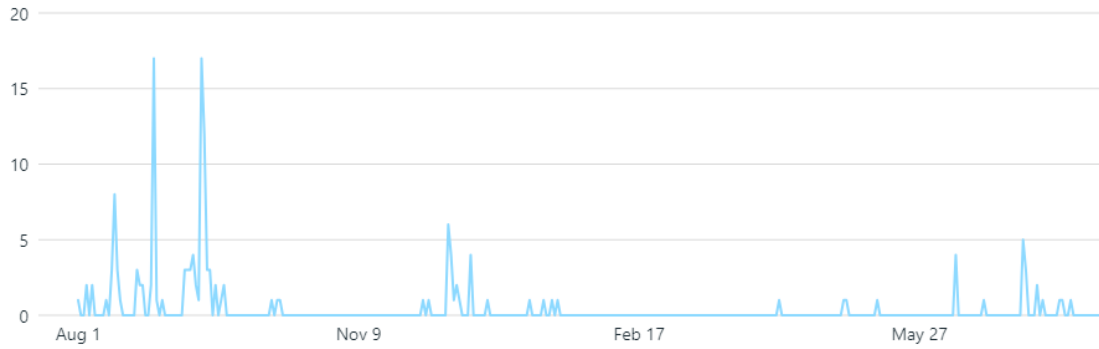
One of the HREC's Work Plan items is to share information about different cultural holidays and heritage recognition months with the community on social media. This has increased social media engagement and reached an increasing number of community members on the Facebook format. These posts have been the most popular posts over the last 12 months reaching about 1500 people on average.



### Link clicks

Facebook link clicks ⓘ

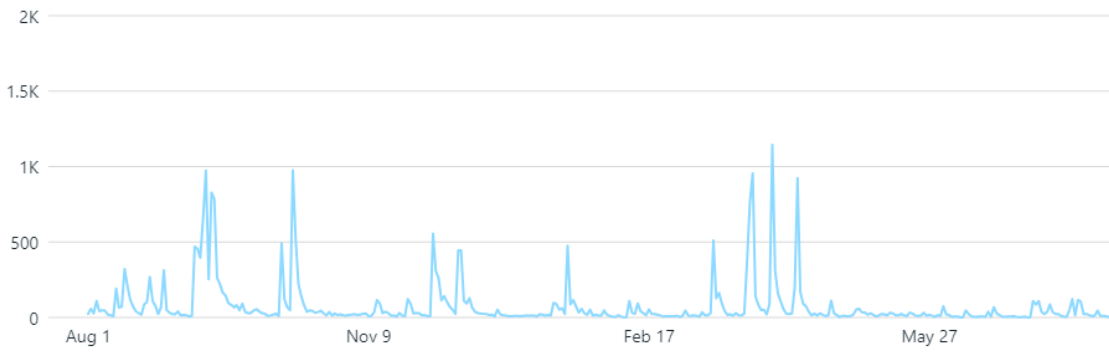
156 ↑ 41.8%

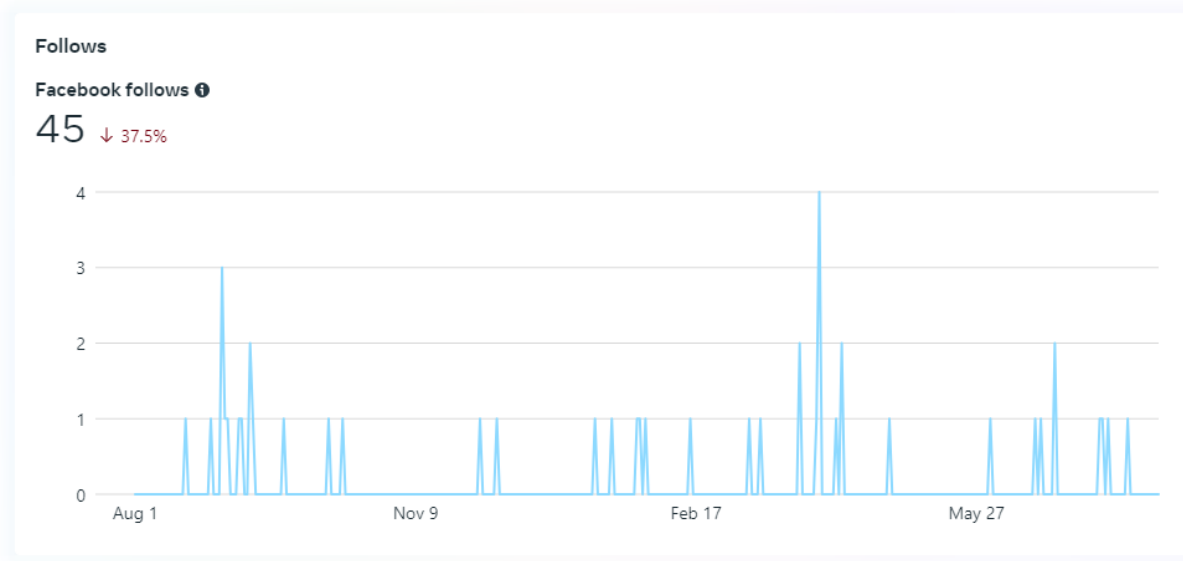


### Reach

Facebook reach ⓘ

11.5K ↑ 140.2%





### HREC in the Local News

Jewish History in Detroit - <https://www.candgnews.com/news/michigans-jewish-history-is-for-everybody-3090>

Native Plant Sale - <https://www.candgnews.com/news/news--notes--92023-madisonpark-news-3497>

Motorama & Smoke - <https://www.candgnews.com/news/car-food-cultures-collide-at-motorama--smoke-3538>

Juneteenth - <https://www.candgnews.com/news/madison-heights-juneteenth--celebration-returns-to-civic-center-park-5663>

Revin' in the Heights and Cookbook- <https://www.candgnews.com/news/calling-all-cooks-and-car-lovers-5992>