

Minutes
Quarterly Ironwood Human Relations and Equity Committee
Wednesday September 6, 2023

Location: Ironwood Memorial Building
Women's Room
213 S Marquette Street
Ironwood, MI 49938

Quarterly Meeting
6pm to 7:30pm

Call to Order: 6:03pmCDT

Attendance: C Erickson, T Patel, A Burchell, G Gripper, J Jacobson

Approval of Consent Agenda: Motion to approve by Burchell / Second by Patel. Agenda approved with one addition: A Conversation About Fifth Member to Committee

Approval of Previous Minutes (*Review and place on file*): **from June Quarterly Mtg.** Motion to approve June Minutes by Patel / Second by Gripper. Minutes approved.

Public Input: No members of the public in attendance; therefore no Public Input.

Items for Discussion and Action:

Update on Chapter 30 Ordinances – to stay on track – Are we making progress? – Yes progress is being made, but it has slowed due to Bergman personal/family matters. Group looked at the spreadsheet with Bergman/Jacobson comments in blue ink. Rather than take time in this meeting to do a review, the group decided to move forward in the following manner:

- Bergman and Jacobson will continue to review the ordinances, making their comments in blue ink, until they are finished.
- Once the Bergman/Jacobson review is completed the original group will look at their comments and answer any questions they posed during their review. Original group will include Erickson, Burchell, Gripper, Akerman-Behr. Patel will also attend.
- Once that review is complete, then all parties will convene to discuss final changes and how to make the presentation to the City Commission.
- Another update will take place at the next Quarterly HREC meeting.
- Final review is projected before Quarterly meeting in March.

Update on Hiawatha Project – Reports on Tribal contacts and next steps – Erickson had responses from Red Cliff and Lac Vieux Desert tribes. Red Cliff is unable to help, though they feel the project is a good one. Lac Vieux Desert agreed to involvement for research, writing, editing of any written material used. The spokesperson also suggested the possibility of ongoing educational exhibits. Gripper connected with Lac du Flambeau tribe and was awaiting a response about a possible meeting to further discuss the project idea. No responses had arrived from other tribal representatives. The next step will be to contact the Chamber of Commerce for further input about written material and research. The group decided to move forward and have some written material ready by the November working meeting. November 14.

Update on Data Collection Project – Where does it stand? -- The project needs further data to be sent to Patel, so he can set up a better “dashboard”. After the last working meeting in August, the group understood that the purpose of this project is to offer two pieces of information to the public: Yes, IPSD officers are doing things correctly; and Yes, we have data for the public that shows things are being done correctly. A timeline for getting the additional information and for creating the dashboard is tentatively set for the October working meeting. October 11.

HREC Survey Status – Actions to take as of August 23rd meeting -- The group will continue to use the survey by placing it in different publications / locations. The following steps should be followed:

Patel will develop a flier template that can be copied and placed in business locations around town. Approximately 20 of these – may be laminated. HREC can probably absorb the cost.

Erickson will ask about timeline for next tax letter – Survey could be included.

Patel will ask the Chamber to continue to print the Survey QR code in its newsletters.

Patel will develop business cards for handing out at events in which HREC participates.

Approximately 300?

Erickson will approach City Mgr about funds for printing the business cards, once developed.

Conversation About Fifth Member to Committee -- There was concern about the fact that the HREC ordinance (Sec.2-191) contains a clause excluding any city official from serving on the HREC even in an ad hoc capacity. The group was not sure how that was placed in the ordinance: whether it was placed in it just prior to adoption; whether it was in the original ordinance that may have been borrowed from another city. There was some discussion about amending the ordinance.

The group did some brainstorming to come up with additional names of people to approach for possible HREC membership. The group will work to approach those individuals before the next working meeting on October 11.

Meeting adjourned: 7:45pm