
CITY OF KALAMAZOO
Civil Rights Board
Wednesday, February 1, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. • City Commission Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marissa Harrington, Dustin Corwin, Sandra Calderon, Lyonel LaGrone II, Jacob Beach

MEMBERS ABSENT: Madison Lukeman (Excused), Janeen Brown (Excused)

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Tanya Hewitt-Smith (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Director), Marcia Jones (Assistant City Attorney), Lal Tluangi (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Coordinator).

The Civil Rights Board meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Marissa Harrington.

Agenda: Director Beach motioned to adopt meeting agenda; supported by Director Corwin. Motion approved by unanimous vote. Agenda adopted.

Minutes: Director Corwin motioned to approve minutes from December 7, 2023; supported by Director Beach. Motion approved by unanimous vote with the correction of including Director Lyonel LaGrone as a member present. Minutes adopted.

Public Announcements and Communications: None.

New Business:

Discussion of Complaint Update – DEI Coordinator, Lal Tluangi, provided 2022 and 2023 complaint updates to the board. Board members requested a detailed report on police discrimination and a section 8 voucher referral. Director Corwin requested his final determination letters for his two complaints as he did not receive any. Board members requested that a complaint summary be shared with them monthly along with the complaint log.

Ordinance Review Subcommittee Assignment – Chair Harrington appointed Director LaGrone and Director Lukeman to the subcommittee to review the Chapter 18 ordinance and to work with city staff in its revision.

Review Recent Revision of Chapter 18 – Changes to the ordinance were made on section 18-19 at the request of the board in a previous meeting. The changes were taken from a previously draft ordinance.

Review Next Steps of Ordinance Revision – Chair Harrington reiterated that all comments, reviews, and discussion regarding the ordinance should be directed to the ordinance review subcommittee assignment.

Selection of Training Date – Director Beach recommended June 5th and Director LaGrone seconded the recommendation. The board determined that Monday, June 5th 2:30 to 4:30 pm the best time for their training.

Public Comments:

Andrew Chaponda (ISAAC TRHT Housing taskforce) – Shared three issues he had with the board. 1st being that he believed the ordinance review subcommittee had already been formed. 2nd being that the board is being redundant with so many subcommittees. Commented that the review board was wanted to investigate why complaints have not been heard by the board. 3rd issue focused on the board being specifically set up to handle housing discrimination not other types of discrimination.

Miscellaneous Board Comments: Director LaGrone responded to public comment and noted that discrimination comes in all forms and stated that the board is working towards a holistic ordinance that can respond to discrimination. Director LaGrone also requested that the board receive minutes and agenda items a week in advance. Chair Harrington noted that a subcommittee to review the ordinance was brought up in the December meeting as a subcommittee would allow for a closer collaboration with city staff and ensuring ordinance revision is done in a timely manner. Director Beach wished everyone a happy Black History Month.

Closing Comments: None

Next Meeting: April 5, 2023

ADJOURNMENT: 7:50 p.m.

Lal Tluangi, Recording Secretary
Tanya Hewitt-Smith, Staff Liaison
Stephanie Hoffman, City Commission Liaison
Marissa Harrington, Chair