

**City of Edwardsville  
Human Relations Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** April 4, 2022

**Location:** City Hall, Council Chambers, 118 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025

**Members Present:**

- Paul Pitts (Chair), Anya Covington, Violet Evans, Karyle Penelton, Yolanda Crochrell (Vice Chair), David Boyer, Brian Pezza, Jean McGurk O'Brien (Secretary), Keith Page.
- Quorum present

**Others Present:**

- Amanda Tucker (City Liaison), Christina "Ash" Jenkins (Edwardsville), John Harvey (Edwardsville), Ezra Temko (Edwardsville), Phyllis Spiller (Godfrey), Jill Schardt (Edwardsville), Shannon O'Brien (Edwardsville).

**Called to Order:** by Paul Pitts at 5:00 p.m.

**Moment of Silence:** A moment of silence was suggested by Paul Pitts to recognize the current struggles in the world.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Keith Page moved to accept the 2.28.2022 Special Meeting minutes as submitted; Yolanda Crochrell seconded; the motion passed with none opposed.
- Keith Page moved to accept the 3.7.2022 minutes as submitted; Yolanda Crochrell seconded; the motion passed with none opposed.

**Communications:**

- Amanda Tucker reported that there will be three openings in the HRC membership at the beginning of May, as terms expire for Paul Pitts, Keith Page and Jean McGurk O'Brien. Mayor Risavy is currently working on inviting new members, and plans to present the new HRC members at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> HRC meeting.
- At the May 2, 2022 meeting the HRC will decide on new officers.

**Public Comment:**

- Paul Pitts invited public comments. Ezra Temko expressed appreciation for the committee's previous attempts to address gender discrepancies in the naming of City activities such as the Daddy-Daughter Dance. He then asked that a follow-up effort be made to narrow the previous recommendation.

**Administrative:**

- Jean McGurk O'Brien made a motion stating: "The Human Relations Committee recommends that the City of Edwardsville Parks and Recreation Department adapt the

titles of the City Daddy-Daughter Dance and Mother-Son Event to names that are gender inclusive.” The motion was seconded by Brian Pezza. Following discussion, the motion passed with all in favor excepting Paul Pitts, David Boyer and Violet Evans who each voted opposed.

- Discussion of the Race Relations & Equality in Edwardsville’s (December 2020) Directive for Improving Race Relations and Equality in Edwardsville (Referred to as “the 10 Points”)
  - Discussion of communication with the community regarding HRC action and progress. Anya Covington initiated discussion of developing an HRC newsletter. Amanda Tucker stated that once the City’s website review/updating is completed that the HRC meetings, agendas, minutes, and the HRC complaint form/process will all be posted and updated regularly on the City website. Additional items which the HRC requests can be published through City social media.
  - Discussion of the Points which the HRC, or other City entities, have addressed, of Points which are yet to be addressed, and how the HRC can establish a means of checking in regularly with the 10 Points to assess progress and to determine what needs further attention (along of the lines of developing an ongoing score card of accountability). This would likely include making a formal decision/recommendation to implement a Human Relations city-wide survey every two years. The assessment tool(s) and the Survey can be added as agenda items once new HRC members are onboard.
  - Discussion of how to encourage more people/groups to join the conversation, including the suggestion that HRC committee members take turns inviting one or two people to attend the HRC meeting and speak with the committee about what their group does/is doing, as well as getting a chance to learn what the committee is then focused on and how the HRC committee might assist the individual/group in it’s own actions/efforts towards equality.
  - Discussed HRC representation on and developing plan and best practice recommendations for the City crisis communication team.
  - Members would like to follow up on discussion regarding supporting minority owned businesses.
- Paul Pitts requested that a motion be made to approve the HRC Ordinance as revised and forwarded to the ACS (attached). Yolanda Crochrell made the motion, seconded by Brian Pezza, all in favor, none opposed.
- Brian Pezza made a motion to approve the City of Edwardsville Human Relations Committee Complaint Form (attached). Yolanda Crochrell seconded the motion, all in favor, none opposed.
- David Boyer recognized and thanked the outgoing HRC members.

**Next Meeting:**

- The next regular scheduled meeting of the Human Relations Committee will be Monday, May 2, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by Paul Pitts at 6:16 p.m.

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Chair

Minutes Prepared by: Jean McGurk O'Brien, Secretary, 4/27/2022

Approved Signature: *Yuliana Pacheco* vice-Chair

Approved Date: *5/2/2022*

