

Pittsfield Human Rights Commission
February 7, 2019
6:00 pm, City Council Chambers
Pittsfield City Hall, 70 Allen Street, Pittsfield, MA

Members: Drew Herzig, Chair
Caterina Penna, Vice-Chair
Jessica Christensen
Peter Marchetti
Marietta Rapetti Cawse
Sopheap Nhim
Robert Sykes
Antonia (Toni) Buckley

Members Absent:

Also Present: Debra Goddeau, Clerk

1. Call to Order – Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law chapter 30A, section 20, all attendees are hereby informed that a video and audio recording is being made of this meeting.

2. **Roll call of HRC members** - Robert Sykes gave a brief bio about himself.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to table the November 8, 2018 HRC Minutes by Peter Marchetti. Motion to table passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment

Alex Blumin – 16 Hamlin Street, Pittsfield, MA

Discussed his complaint concerning Antonia (Toni) Buckley. He states that Antonia Buckley is not a citizen and therefore not a registered voter. He also feels that the HRC is partisan and that we violated his free speech tonight by giving him only 3 minutes to speak.

Drew Herzig – wished to give the Commission a chance to respond.

Caterina Penna – Feels that it was insulting and did not appreciate Mr. Blumin's comments.

Marietta Repetti Cawse – This commission is non-partisan.

Drew Herzig - Massachusetts law states that limiting public comment is within the HRC's legal rights. The Pittsfield City Charter also does not make citizenship a requirement for serving on the HRC.

5. Unfinished Business –

Revised guidelines for public comment and presentations to HRC. It was decided to bring this back to the next meeting.

6. New Business –

- Discuss mission and function of HRC -

Antonia (Toni) Buckley - Discussed Open Meeting Law – 48 hours' notice before the meeting. It makes this very hard for the Commission to plan something.

Peter Marchetti – The HRC should review information about Open Meeting Law and committees. We should include the city solicitor when we talk about this and also find out what we can and cannot say in resolutions.

Jessica Christensen – I feel frustrated with the outreach part. Getting the word out to the community? What has it done for the community? Finding the connection. I enjoy the presentations and learn a lot but how do we get the word out. What would be the best way to brainstorm presentations, topics.

Jessica Christensen – suggested a presentation on Human Trafficking.

Antonia (Toni) Buckley – Jeanet Ingalls would be the person to provide such a presentation for the HRC. Drew Herzig will invite Jeanet Ingalls to make a presentation to the HRC.

Robert Sykes – Suggest have meetings in other locations. We can go to the Christian Center, DA Office, etc. Moving to other places. We can go to other sites of the city.

Marietta Repetti Cawse – It would be a help to have a representative from the HRC on the advisory board that Andrea Harrington talked about last night in her meeting.

2018-year report to City Council -

Motion to approve the report by Peter Marchetti. Seconded by Caterina Penna. Motion approved unanimously.

Consider HRC representative for Police

Drew Herzig will be the HRC representative on the Police Advisory and Review Board.

Next HRC meeting – Peter Marchetti will try to arrange training on open meeting law for the HRC, and advice from the city solicitor on resolutions made by HRC

7. Reports of Commissioners - none

8. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn the meeting by Peter Marchetti, seconded by Sopheap Nhim.

Next HRC meeting: Monday, March 11, 2019. 7- 8pm. Meeting in Room 203.