

Pittsfield Human Rights Commission
Minutes – June 3rd, 2019
7:15 PM, Room 203
Pittsfield City Hall, 70 Allen St., Pittsfield, MA

Members Present: Drew Herzig, Chair
Marietta Rapetti Cawse
Robert Sykes
Peter Marchetti
Christine Codella, Clerk

Members Absent: Jessica Christensen, Jay Lopez

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Drew Herzig called the meeting to order and notified all those in attendance that 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.

Drew Herzig announced that the resignation of Sopheap Nhim is accepted.

2. **Roll Call of HRC Members** – Clerk Christine Codella announced the roll call of members present.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Robert Sykes to approve the May 15th 2019 minutes. Seconded by Marietta Rapetti Cawse, approved unanimously.
4. **Public Comment** – There was no comment from members of the public.
5. **Presentation to the HRC by Richard Collins**, LMHC, Co-Responder of the Pittsfield Police Department. He spoke at length about the critical need for mental health and substance abuse services within the community. His function is to work with the Pittsfield and other Berkshire County Police Departments to facilitate the transition of those in need to the various organizations available to them. He talked about the One Mind Campaign which provides the Police training on how to deal with those in crisis situations.
6. **Unfinished Business** – There was more discussion on the mission and functions of the HRC. Drew Herzig noted that anyone volunteering to be a member of any city commission is not warned that any personal information provided is public information. He would like to get the mayor's assistant to attend one of our meetings to talk about changing this procedure. There was a conversation about the possibility of getting all members of city commissions together for a "meet and greet" primarily to put a face to the name and to learn about the functions of these other commissions. Peter Marchetti commented that depending on the format of this get together, we would need to be aware of the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.

Drew Herzig talked about re-writing the city charter's definition of Human Rights to be more positive. Jay Lopez had offered to work on this for the commission. Peter Marchetti asked the commission to think about what the role of the commission is and what the intended outcome should be.

Also noted by Drew Herzig is that Berkshire Pride is June 15th.

7. The HRC election of officers has been postponed until all members are present. We are down to six members at this point.
8. **Reports of Commissioners** – None currently.
9. Our next meeting will be Monday, July 22nd at 6 pm. At this time there was a discussion about how complaints about the HRC are handled by the city. Peter Marchetti noted that he will see that the form for making complaints will be removed from the city's website.

A motion to adjourn was made by Peter Marchetti, seconded by Marietta Rapetti Cawse. Approved unanimously.