

Pittsfield Human Rights Commission
Minutes – January 29, 2020
6:00 PM, Pittsfield City Hall
Council Chambers, 70 Allen St., Pittsfield, MA

Members Present: Peter Marchetti, Chair
Drew Herzig, Vice Chair
Robert Sykes
Jay Lopez
Christine Codella, Clerk

Members Absent: Marietta Rapetti Cawse

1. **Call to Order** – Peter Marchetti called the meeting to order at 6 PM. Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 20, all attendees are hereby notified that this meeting is being audio and video recorded.
2. **Roll Call of HRC Members** – The clerk announced the roll call of members present.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Jay Lopez to approve the October 15th, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Drew Herzig, approved unanimously.
4. **Public Comment** – None
5. **Unfinished Business** – Drew requested that members of Berkshire Pride and Berkshire Stonewall Commission be asked to attend a meeting. Peter Marchetti will put on an agenda for a future meeting.
6. **New Business** – Drew Herzig noted that the 7th Annual Live Out Loud conference will be held March 28, 2020 at Berkshire Community College from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Additional information can be obtained at <https://liveoutloudberkshires.org>.

Drew Herzig spoke about the annual street listing form and expressed concern about the question of nationality and how this will affect voter turn-out. He found out that though the city mails the form, however the state determines the questions.

Peter Marchetti suggested we come up with a day and week of the month to schedule our meetings in the future. He suggested the fourth Monday of every month. He also questioned members about the need to meet monthly or every other month. It was agreed that we will meet monthly. A motion was made by Drew Herzig to schedule future meetings on the fourth Monday of each month. Jay Lopez seconded. Approved unanimously.

7. There was a presentation by Mark Sebastino, Partnership Specialist for the 2020 Census. He discussed the importance of the 2020 Census. It is conducted every 10 years since 1790, it determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, it defines congressional and state legislative districts, school districts and voting precincts. It determines the annual allocation of \$675 billion dollars in federal funding. It also provides insight to governments, business and community planning groups for planning purposes. He also talked about the ongoing recruiting for census workers. All tools and additional information are available at www.census.gov.
8. **Reports of Commissions** – Drew Herzig noted that he continues to attend the Police Advisory Review Board meetings which are held the third Tuesday of each month and are open to the public.
9. Jay Lopez made a motion to adjourn, Drew Herzig seconded. Approved unanimously.