

Pittsfield Human Rights Commission

Minutes – July 2, 2020

6:00 PM, Via ZOOM

Members Present: Peter Marchetti, Chair
Drew Herzig, Vice Chair
Jay Lopez (late)
Robert Sykes (late)
Marietta Rapetti Cawse
Christine Codella, Clerk

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 Chairman announced the roll call of members present.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Drew Herzig to approve the January 29, 2020 minutes. Seconded by Marietta Rapetti Cawse, approved unanimously.
4. **Public Comment** – None
5. **Unfinished Business** – None
6. **New Business**
 - a. Peter Marchetti acknowledged that June was Pride Month and noted that we were unable to meet in June.
 - b. A motion was made by Drew Herzig to table a discussion of the impact on Human Rights due to the pandemic in respect to access to healthcare, shelter, legal representation, and racial disparities. Seconded by Marietta Rapetti Cawse, approved unanimously.
 - c. A motion was made by Drew Herzig to table a discussion on drafting a statement regarding racial and social injustice until all members can be present. Seconded by Marietta Rapetti Cawse. Approved unanimously.

Marietta Rapetti Cawse will draft a statement to address racial and social inequities to be forwarded to Peter Marchetti before the next HRC meeting. A motion was made by Marietta Rapetti Cawse to table so that this can be included in the agenda of our next meeting, seconded by Drew Herzig. Approved unanimously.

Marietta Rapetti Cawse suggested meeting in a panel to discuss these issues. Peter Marchetti addressed concerns about the current requirement of meeting remotely. Some who do not have computers, etc., would not be able to attend.

d. Drew Herzig noted that the city has created a Police Advisory and Review Board to explore racial disparities. He also noted that a resolution be drafted to be presented to the Pittsfield City Council and the Board of Health declaring racism as a public health crisis worthy of a treatment, assessment and financial investment in order to eradicate negative health impacts. A motion was made by Marietta Rapetti Cawse to allow this resolution to be drafted by Drew Herzig and presented to the HRC at the next meeting which will be held July 27th. Drew Herzig seconded. Approved unanimously.

7. Peter Marchetti noted the decision of the Supreme Court to protect employment rights of the LGBTQ community. Drew Herzig also commented on the Supreme Court decision.

A motion was made to adjourn by Drew Herzig, seconded by Marietta Rapetti Cawse. Approved unanimously.