



CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS

CITY HALL - MADISON ROOM - 300 W. 13 MILE RD, MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

HUMAN RELATIONS AND EQUITY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

MAY 05, 2022 AT 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes of April 7, 2022

REPORTS

2. Advise & Educate
3. Communications
4. Fundraising
5. Volunteers & Collaborations
6. Volunteers & Collaboration - Book Discussion

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. Juneteenth Event Update

NEW BUSINESS

8. Board Roles

ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE: Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation through electronic means in this meeting should contact the City Clerk at (248) 583-0826 or by email: clerks@madison-heights.org at least two working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.



CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS
LIBRARY - BRECKENRIDGE ROOM, 240 W. 13 MILE RD.
HUMAN RELATIONS AND EQUITY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

APRIL 07, 2022 AT 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Szymanski called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Rebecca Chambliss
 Nickole Fox
 Paige Szmanski
 Alternate Sandra Quackenbush
 Alternate Kevin Wright

ABSENT

Chair Cemone Moy
 Amy Guzynski
 Jessica Tutt
 Council Alternate Quinn Wright
 Council Representative Emily Rohrbach

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes from March 9, 2022.

Motion made by Alternate Wright, Seconded by Szmanski to approve the minutes of March 9, 2022.
 Voting Yea: Chambliss, Fox, Szmanski, Alternate Quackenbush, Alternate Wright

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There was no one present wishing to speak.

REPORTS

Advise & Educate

Communications

Fundraising

Volunteers & Collaborations

Advise & Educate - Commissioner Tutt reached out to Chief Haines about mental health policies in the police department. The understanding is that there are trainings offered, but no specific policies.

Communications - Vice Chairperson Szymanski will be available to attend the next City Council meeting to provide an update on HREC happenings. Commissioner Wright requested admin access to the HREC Facebook page, as did Commissioner Fox, in order to help create social media posts. A social gathering is planned for HREC in May, Communications team will reach out to HREC members to coordinate a date soon.

Fundraising - Plant/book sale planned for July. Date TBD.

Volunteers & Collaboration - Team waiting for HREC list of recognition days/months for final decisions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Juneteenth Event Business

Juneteenth - Working on getting an ASL sign language interpreter for the event. Cemone may have a contact.

Commissioner Tutt has reached out to multiple possible performers and educators for the event. A dance performance is in the works with Royalty Dance. Also looking into Rosie Chapman. X. Alexander Durden is on board to come back for educational readings and other plans. Michael Howard will pair education with the performance as part of laying out steps for racial haling Listen, Learn, Lament, and Leverage.

Voter registration booth/table will be present.

Volunteers needed - 45-50 or more. T-shirts or lanyards for volunteers possible. Commissioner Szymanski offered to help make them, Commissioners Chambliss and Fox also offered support to help make them.

HREC Escrow account at \$2,439. 96. After Smoke Jones payment of \$1,150.00 comes out, remaining balance will be \$1,289.96. Note-MACC grant increased slightly to \$1,800.

NEW BUSINESS

Recognition Days/Months for HREC

Recognition Days/Months for HREC

Commissioner Quackenbush recommends including December 3 as International Persons with Disabilities Day.

Commissioner K. Wright suggested to recognize April as Arab American Heritage Month.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

A proposed list will go out to HREC members as a sign up sheet to help create content for social media posts.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

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Volunteers & Collaborations

Book Discussion Panel Events

I. Name the Event/Series/Book Club

a. Examples:

HREC Diverse Voices Book Club
 Diverse Voices Community Reads
 Equity & Empathy Book Club
 Equity through Empathy – an HREC Book Club
 Equity through Empathy – an HREC Community Read
 Reading Diverse Books with HREC
 HREC Community Reads
 Madison Heights Community Reads

b. Other suggestions? Open to ideas

II. June 2022. Pride Month

a. #1 Book Choice: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennet

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?

Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations, and explores some of the multiple reasons and realms in which people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins. As with her *New York Times*-bestselling debut *The Mothers*, Brit Bennett offers an engrossing page-turner about family and relationships that is immersive and provocative, compassionate and wise.

b. Or #2 Book Choice: *Detransition Baby* by Torrey Peters

Reese almost had it all: a loving relationship with Amy, an apartment in New York City, a job she didn't hate. She had scraped together what previous generations of trans women could only dream of: a life of mundane, bourgeois comforts. The only thing missing was a child. But

then her girlfriend, Amy, detransitioned and became Ames, and everything fell apart. Now Reese is caught in a self-destructive pattern: avoiding her loneliness by sleeping with married men.

Ames isn't happy either. He thought detransitioning to live as a man would make life easier, but that decision cost him his relationship with Reese—and losing her meant losing his only family. Even though their romance is over, he longs to find a way back to her. When Ames's boss and lover, Katrina, reveals that she's pregnant with his baby—and that she's not sure whether she wants to keep it—Ames wonders if this is the chance he's been waiting for. Could the three of them form some kind of unconventional family—and raise the baby together?

This provocative debut is about what happens at the emotional, messy, vulnerable corners of womanhood that platitudes and good intentions can't reach. Torrey Peters brilliantly and fearlessly navigates the most dangerous taboos around gender, sex, and relationships, gifting us a thrillingly original, witty, and deeply moving novel.

c. Steps to Prepare:

- HREC Member Discussion Leader
- Select Date
- Advertise Book Selection
- Seek out Panel Members
- Partner with Library, Friends of the MH Library, MH Women's Club or other community group to purchase copies of the book to make available for the public (for people to keep? Or they can donate to the library when done...)
- Create a reading list to complement and supplement the title, including podcast discussions or summaries of the book. This should include titles for a range of ages and reading levels.

III. November 2022. Native American Heritage Month

a. #1 Book Choice: *The Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley

Eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. She dreams of a fresh start at college, but when family tragedy strikes, Daunis puts her future on hold to look after her fragile mother. The only bright spot is meeting Jamie, the charming new recruit on her brother Levi's hockey team.

Yet even as Daunis falls for Jamie, she senses the dashing hockey star is hiding something. Everything comes to light when Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, thrusting her into an FBI investigation of a lethal new drug.

Reluctantly, Daunis agrees to go undercover, drawing on her knowledge of chemistry and Ojibwe traditional medicine to track down the source. But the search for truth is more complicated than Daunis imagined, exposing secrets and old scars. At the same time, she grows concerned with an investigation that seems more focused on punishing the offenders than protecting the victims.

Now, as the deceptions—and deaths—keep growing, Daunis must learn what it means to be

a strong Anishinaabe kwe (Ojibwe woman) and how far she'll go for her community, even if it tears apart the only world she's ever known.

b. **#2 Book Choice: (I don't have a back-up choice currently...)**

c. Steps to Prepare:

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- Create a reading list to complement and supplement the title, including podcast discussions or summaries of the book. This should include titles for a range of ages and reading levels.

Chairperson Cemone Moy resigned. If Vice Chairperson Szymanski assumes the role of Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson will need to be appointed.