

CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of Meeting, May 3, 2012

CALL TO ORDER: Approximately 6:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Durian, Angela Manahan Ilori, Ray LaPoint, Elma (Pat) Maye, Marc Meulman, Nadeem Mirza, Cory Puterbaugh, Kyle Huitt (Youth Advisory Committee Liaison)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sandra Sheppard

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cody Dekker

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Maye and supported by Durian to approve the March 28, 2012 minutes as submitted. Upon voice vote, motion passed 6-0 (Mirza arrived after approval of minutes).

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Fair Housing Activity Update – Presentation by Bob Ells, Executive Director, Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan: Bob Ells provided an overview of the Fair Housing Center which included: trainings, an annual fair that was hosted in April (it was noted that city staff Chris Forth and Money attended the fair), review of complaints and complaint associated activity, and additional information as provided in the Fair Housing Report included in the agenda. Ells indicated that there were three Portage based complaints over the past nine months that included one race based discrimination case, one based on disability, and the third one on both race and disability. Huitt asked what type of discrimination is typical. Ells responded that race, disability, and family status are the three main types of discrimination that they see. The seven protected classes are race, color, national origin, religion, family status, sex/gender, and disability. Ells indicated they are looking to expand their efforts and reach more people as it is estimated only a small percentage of people discriminated against actually file a fair housing complaint. Money suggested that they could target Portage landlords or rental housing by utilizing property information available through the Assessing and Community Development Departments.
2. Metro Transit ADA Advisory Committee – Update by Board member Meulman: Meulman attended the March meeting but had nothing new to report except there has been an increase this year for on demand service and increase in fixed route ridership in general.
3. Resignation of Board member Cory Puterbaugh: Meulman and the Board expressed thanks to Puterbaugh for his service. Durian moved to accept the resignation of Puterbaugh, Maye seconded. Upon vote, motion passed 6-0 (Puterbaugh abstained).
4. Summer meeting schedule: Maye moved to cancel the June and July meetings, Mirza seconded. Upon vote, motion passed 6-0 (Puterbaugh abstained). A discussion followed regarding the August meeting agenda items and that the agenda include a topic discussed at the March 28, 2012 meeting, which was a potential need for a local housing discrimination ordinance that provides protection for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons. The Board agreed to place this item on the August agenda.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist

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