

**MINUTES FROM: Advisory Human Relations Council: City of Valparaiso**

**DATE: February 23, 2021**

**PRESENT: Voting Members: John Albers, Kevin Miller, Mitch Peters, Jerome Ezell, Patrick Lyp, Jennifer Wright, Mike Bendicsen, Laurie Mullet, Hannah Hammond-Hagman, Judith Neville Quorum Established**

**Non-voting: Chief Jeff Balon**

**Staff present: Maggie Clifton**

**RECORDED BY: Laurie Mullet**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>RESOLUTIONS</b>
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by John Albers, Vice Chairperson.	
Minutes		The minutes of the January 26, 2021 meeting were entered into the record with no corrections.
Community Spotlight	Patrick Lyp introduced our speaker Sarah Fink who spoke to us on the CASA (Community Appointed Special Advocate) program through Family and Youth Services Bureau. This program in Porter County serves children who are referred for services through the Department of Child Services (DFS) Typically, 150-200 kids receive services from CASA volunteers each month.	For more information: <a href="mailto:casainfo@fysb.org">casainfo@fysb.org</a> ; <a href="http://portercountycasa.org">portercountycasa.org</a> , or by calling 219-464-9585.  The community spotlight will be moved to the beginning of each AHRC meeting.
Introductions	All members provided a short introduction. New members Mitch Peters, Jerome Ezull and Jennifer Wright were welcomed.	
Courageous Conversations	Kevin Miller and Judith Neville announced that the next conversation will take place on February 28, 2021 from 4-5:30 pm via Zoom. The topic will be “What Can be Done to Include Equity and Inclusion in school settings”.  Discussion ensued regarding the community conversations particularly in how the conversations came about and how	

	topics are picked.	
Review of Authorizing Ordinance	John provided the Authorizing Ordinance for the AHRC.	
Elections of Officers	<p>John stated that the following individuals have requested consideration for nomination: John Albers, Chairperson Patrick Lyp, Vice Chairperson. Discussions ensued.</p> <p>Recording Secretary: This position is not required by the ordinance, but it has become evident that our meetings should be consistently recorded. Laurie Mullet has performed this task for 18 months.</p>	<p><b>A motion was made and seconded to appoint John Albers, chairperson and Patrick Lyp, vice chairperson. The motion carried.</b></p> <p><b>A motion was made and seconded to appoint Laurie Mullet as the recording secretary for the AHRC. The motion carried.</b></p>
Meeting Schedule	The ordinance calls for quarterly meetings. In recent years, the AHRC had been meeting monthly. Discussion ensued.	<b>A motion was made and seconded to meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm at city hall. The remaining meetings for 2021 will be 3/23, 5/25,7/27,9/28,11/30 with a goal to move to quarterly meetings. The motion carried.</b>
Public Comment	Comments were received from the public via Facebook Link	
Adjournment		With no further business to come before the AHRC, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Mullet, recording secretary