



**MINUTES
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY
Friday, June 9, 2017 @ 11:30 a.m.
Council Conference Room, 10th Floor, City Hall**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m.

Committee Members

Councilmember Carol Wood, Chair
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley
Councilmember Jody Washington

Others Present

LaSondra Crenshaw, Council Staff
Jim Bale, Greater Lansing Labor Council
Eric Weber, President Local 421
Tammy Lemmer, TCOA
Heather Sumner, Assistant City Attorney
Jeff Wood, Suits in the City
Stacey Locke, Peckham
Guillermo Lopez

MINUTE

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WASHINGTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 28, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Councilmember Wood had the group introduce themselves and she also advised that the check has been sent/cashed to Tri-County Office of Aging regarding Snow Sergeants Program.

Discussion

Information regarding Opioid Overdoes by IAFF

Mr. Weber introduced himself and spoke about this being a truly important topic. He stated this is a scary epidemic and the need for 911 is greater than ever due to the opioid epidemic. Mr. Weber estimated there were 6 heroin overdoses on Sat June 3, 2017 alone.

Councilmember Wood stated the 1st of the month the need is greater.

Mr. Weber stated the 1st and 15th of the month more overdoses occur because state checks are distributed. He also stated that this affecting people who are late teens to adults over the age 60. What does a community do? Mr. Weber stated he doesn't have the answer but we need to bind together with Council, and varies groups to get the message out. He advised he often gets questions regarding if Narcan should be readily available?

Councilmember Wood asked do you train people in other fields to administer Narcan?

Mr. Weber stated one problem is that it takes the high someone is experiencing away immediately. Heroin use to be expensive but now it's cheap and readily available. Patients become combative once drug is administered. Once high is gone it becomes a public safety issue. The patient exhibits behavior which than requires help from LPD. Narcan is now carried on every fire truck, and police cars and they are finding out they are running out quickly. They now have to carry protective equipment so officers don't come in contact.

Councilmember Wood asked do you keep track of patients Narcan is administered to. Mr. Weber stated he doesn't have answer but will find out and email Council Members.

Councilmember Spitzley stated she is concerned and believes everyone should be trained. However she is not in support of just any City employee administering Narcan. She is concerned when she hears people talking about having Narcan in schools.

Mr. Weber stated he hasn't heard of overdoes in schools. This is an epidemic we all make choices, we can't help everybody but readily placing Narcan around the community will is not the only help we need controlled prevention. Councilmember Spitzley stated that yes you can't save everyone we need to educate. If she had to divert resources to saving your children or adults she would choose children.

Mr. Lopez stated he would like to get Mr. Weber in touch with school personnel to get personnel educated as it would be a benefit to educating educators.

Ms. Locke stated she has a patient that is taking lots of medication due to an upcoming surgery. She advised patient to be careful as it could lead to more. People over the age of 40 are greatly affected. We need to pay attention to disability community as well. They start with pain medication and it leads to other drugs and she could see the addiction starting. Mr. Weber stated altered mental status is important to look for as it could change drastically.

Ms. Lemmer stated resource sharing with Tri County which has launched Chronic Pain Path is important. They are trying to engage people to manage pain without medication. Ms. Locke asked that information be sent to everyone regarding what Ms. Lemmer spoke about.

Mr. Wood stated the impact is multiplying and the community is focusing more on this issue.

Councilmember Spitzley asked does it affect people differently. Mr. Weber stated everyone has a different chemical balance. Doctors tell patients to take medication every 4 hours, but when doctors stop issuing script people go to other place to get medication. Opioids are not produced in America, but it's hitting in America. In Jackson, Lansing, and Chicago the issue is huge. In his opinion there should be a task force formed to tackle the issue. R. Weber stated we don't know what doctors are doing to the patients once they are transported to hospital.

Councilmember Wood stated there is a police task force, but we need the Council, Administration, Fire, Police and the community working together. Mr. Weber stated adults need to be more educated. People need more drop off areas for prescription drugs. People don't want to drop them off at the police department. However drop areas need to be controlled.

Councilmember Spitzley stated prescription drugs are gateway to Heroin. Mr. Weber agreed and stated everything has a purpose, but there has to be a control factor.

Councilmember Washington stated this is why we have to be strict on Marihuana pot shops. Heroin is cheaper than Marihuana now.

Councilmember Spitzley stated the issue is high in Haslett schools, but they are very private and don't talk about the issue as it would be a tarnish upon the district.

Councilmember Wood suggested that sharing of information and spread it out to others is part of the key. There are times we receive information and come up w/recommendations that should be passed to Council and adopted or advocating to have it on agenda for a meeting. We need to look at some of the suggestions and make recommendations to Council and adopting some policies as they move forward. Next meeting will be June 23rd.

Everyone agreed that would be useful and possibility of having it on a COW Agenda. One of the advantages is that it would be televised. We need to have additional discussions on officers coming in contact with drugs. We need policies in place in case this happens. Also bring in police officers to hear what they are seeing. Councilmember Wood advised we would ask Sgt. Backus to be at next meeting.

Mr. Weber stated that Lansing has a "Paint Party" at the Lansing Center that has issues and we need to discuss, as it is costly to the city; requiring more money paid in overtime and in having s police presence. People come in drunk, high, and multiple people get transported to the hospital and it's not positive for Lansing.

Update-Inquiry into HR Department on Employee Diverse Hiring Statistics

Topic was not discussed Councilmember Wood advised due to the time this topic would be discussed during the next meeting June 23, 2017

DISCUSSION – City TV Program Series

Topic was not discussed Councilmember Wood advised due to the time this topic would be discussed during the next meeting June 23, 2017

Other

Councilmember Wood explained to the group what the handouts on the table were. The first one is a report on the adoption of the needle exchange ordinance, Meet Up Eat Up feeding program in many local facilities, Food box group for feeding children you must register with HRCS, and a letter from Mr. Eagle regarding a concern he has with the city job postings.

Councilmember Wood advised the group the handouts would also be sent to them electronically.

Councilmember Wood advised about 5 years ago Council renamed Main Street to Malcolm X, and also did a Honorarium to change Grand River street to Cesar Chavez. The Main Street to Malcolm X name change was due to support of the community. And the Chavez honorarium group decided to go from street name to honorarium because of the concerns from Old Town business owners in the area. The group is bringing this issue up again to do a street name change; it will be presented to the Memorial Review Board then to the City Council. Many of the same issues they were adamant about before will remain. They may ask this Committee to weigh in and Councilmember Wood didn't want people to be caught off guard that's why she is letting them know now. One thing that will be discussed is Grand River Ave was changed then changed back.

Councilmember Washington advised she is a member of the Cesar Chavez Committee. They only have a broke down parking lot in his honor. And he deserves the street to be named after him due to all his work.

Councilmember Washington advised she is working on finding a park in the 3rd ward to name after 1st Hispanic Mayor of Lansing Tony Benavides.

Updates on Participants in the Committee

Mr. Woods stated that June 29th Cristo Rey will be showing the movie Documentary 13th.

Mr. Woods stated June 12th at 6:30 p.m. there will be a Memorial in observance of the 1 year anniversary of the Pulse night club shooting.

Mr. Woods stated June 16th is the White Party

Mr. Woods stated June 17th is the Pride parade

Mr. Woods stated this year the Pride festival is back in Old Town

Adjourn

Adjourn at 12:44 p.m.

Submitted by,

LaSondra Crenshaw, Administrative Assistant

Approved on June 23, 2017