Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 11:33 a.m.

Committee Members
Council Member Carol Wood, Chair
Council Member Brian T. Jackson, Vice Chair
Council Member Patricia Spitzley

Others Present
LaSondra Crenshaw, Council Staff
Tammy Lemmer – TCOA – via phone
Dax Carpenter, Disability Network
Stacey Locke – Peckham
Marilyn Plummer – Mayor’s Office
Elaine Womboldt – RSL
Travis Guerrero – Equality MI
Erin Knott – Equality MI
Guillermo Lopez
Chelsea Coffey – Mayor’s Office

MINUTES
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM March 23, 2018 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3 - 0
**Discussion**  
**Amended Diversity & Inclusion Council Executive Order**

Council Member Wood advised the group that the Amended Executive Order was provided for their review.

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**Discussion**  
**Erin Knott – Equality Michigan**

Ms. Knott stated that she comes to us as a fellow colleague as she too is an elected official and sits on the Kalamazoo City Commission. She explained her role with Equality MI which is a statewide advocacy, Non-profit organization that has focused on policy development. Her background is more field oriented, campaigns and elections and to hold elected officials responsible. She focuses on spending more time at the State Legislative level, rather than going out in the field. We need to put pressure on our elected office at the state legislative level.

In 2017 the index score for the City of Lansing was 65 out of 100. The Municipal Equality Index Score examines municipalities laws, but they don’t award the points the human rights campaign does this. There are ways to increase the score and she will provide examples.

Council Member Spitzley asked if last year’s previous administration submitted the form. And she would hope that Council has input on the questions that are asked. Ms. Knott stated every city is provided the information, and HRC then gives the EMI scores to the administration.

Ms. Coffey asked what is the due date. Ms. Knott advised she will reach out to HRC and get back with Ms. Coffey. She also advised that the 2018 survey is online on the HRC website and there you will be able to review the criteria.

Ms. Knott advised of way to improve the EMI scores:

1. Transgender healthcare benefits: inclusive coverage to include procedures, hormone therapy, etc. This could raise the score 6 points.
2. Appoint a LGBTQ liaison to the Mayor’s office. Add language to the existing job policy – there is no need to create a new position. This could raise he score 5 points.
3. Appoint a police liaison or task force, and publicize the information. This could raise the score 10 points.
4. LGBTQ Council Member or high level executive. This could raise the score 4 points.
5. New this year: Pass an ordinance on banning conversion therapy within the city limits of Lansing.
Council Member Spitzley asked if adding a rider to the current policy would be sufficient. Ms. Knott advised she would clarify and get back with Ms. Coffey. Council Member Wood added that anything to do with healthcare policies would have to be negotiated with the unions.

Council Member Wood asked do you go back to determine whether what was passed was useful and being utilized as intended. Ms. Knott stated she cannot speak for the past, but looking into for the future they would.

**Discussion**  
**Update on Cesar Chavez Memorial Celebration**

Council Member Wood advised the group that we received good feedback regarding the Cesar Chavez Memorial Celebration. People commented that they loved seeing the kids do the pledge of allegiance in English and Spanish. El Shabazz, and Johnny did great and Traci Ruiz was an excellent speaker. The two recipients were here to receive the scholarships, and the food was very good.

**OTHER**  
**Updates on Participants in the Committee**

Race for the cure – April 29th, downtown Adado Park  
Speaker Series April 19th 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. or 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.  
Older Michigamians Days May 16, 2018 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
TCOA 5k (All Ages) May 19th Hawk Island Park at 9:00 a.m.  
Cristo Rey Fiesta May 25th – May 27th  
Elder Abuse Symposium Wed June 13th 1:30-4:30 at Hannah Community Center  
Saturday Sept 8, 2018 at Benjamin Davis Park – Lansing Harmony Celebration
Mr. Carpenter suggested that we push the discussion on Veteran’s off until May 2018 so we can focus on further discussing what we need to do in order to raise the EMI score. Council Member Wood agreed.

Adjourn
Adjourn at 12:39 p.m.
Submitted by,
LaSondra Crenshaw, Administrative Assistant
Approved ____________________________