

**Meeting Minutes -**  
**COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY HEALTH**  
**January 17, 2024 6:30 P.M.**  
**FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL- COMMUNITY ROOM**  
**31555 ELEVEN MILE**  
**FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48336**  
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APPROVED

**Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call:** Bernard Hooper called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Each member shared their name and introduced themselves to the group.

**Members Present:** Bernard Hooper, Charles (Charlie) Starkman, Annemarie Diakow, Obi Ogbonnaya, Jessica Schefman, Molly David, Eunice Jeffries, Mr. Khan

**Members Absent:** Janay Hill

**Others Present:** Jackie Boleware, Teresa Jergovich

**Approval of Minutes – 06/21/2023:** Molly moved to approve the minutes, with Charlie supporting the motion. The minutes from the June 2023 meeting were approved.

**Approval of Agenda:** Molly moved to approve the agenda for today's meeting, with Jessica supporting the motion. The agenda for today's meeting was approved.

**New Council Liaison – Jackie Boleware:** Councilwoman Boleware introduced herself to the commission. She shared her knowledge of the commission's work and indicated a desire to learn more.

**2024 Public Event Booths – Farmers Market, City Open House, Founders Festival, etc.:** Teresa alerted the commission that members determine which event booths in which they would like to participate. The city of Farmington is turning 200 this year, with a specific committee developing the event. Commissioners described the successes of each event and provided feedback on scheduling. Jessica suggested that the Farmers Market be held in the spring, with Founders in the summer and Open House in the Fall; commissioners were in agreement that this is appropriate. Bernard and other commissioners determined that participation in the Farmington bicentennial will need to be weighed in on by commission members living in Farmington. Bernard also raised the possibility of partnering with the bicentennial committee and seeing how the commission can support them in this endeavor.

**Start Up Weekly Bike Ride:** Teresa received feedback from the city that the event had significant interest from residents and has potential to engage many in the community. However, several changes must be made. First, there needs to be prior knowledge of the date and route of each ride in 2024. Second, the event cannot be advertised on the Special Service Weekly Events page. The commission can determine the length of each route. Councilwoman Boleware provided her thoughts on the event based on her past experience with the Costick Center bike rides for seniors. She plans on reaching out to the city's communications director in order to effectively advertise the event (e.g., place flyers at Costick Center or The Hawk).

Teresa brought up an event the city holds in May that centers on bike safety as a potential collaboration partner. Eunice proposed that the commission look into a bike log for families to gauge their progress and incentivize healthy living, which commissioners supported. Eunice discussed coordinating a ride around the area that might correspond with the DIA's Inside Out project, if Farmington/Farmington Hills is selected again. Jackie brought up the idea of collaborating with the city Chamber of Commerce to potentially sponsor the activity and engage with local businesses who would support the event. All routes need to be submitted to the city by May, per Teresa. Routes will be four miles long with a different route per week.

**New Commissioners:** Mr. Khan, a new commissioner, was present for today's meeting. Mr. Khan is a physical therapist who researches hip and knee replacements; however, his specialty is working with ankles. His wife is from Massachusetts and the couple have lived in Michigan for 12 years, previously residing in Massachusetts for five years, and have two children. He is originally from southeast India and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in India before earning his doctorate in Arizona. He is a reserve Oakland County deputy, with a family background in law enforcement. Mr. Khan has worked with low-income communities and enjoys learning about their experiences and challenges.

**Community Service Announcements:** Bernard revisited the commission's previous discussion of interviewing individuals with a background in community service and airing the interviews on the city channel. Molly discussed the objective of these community service announcements and the importance of disseminating health related information to the community. Councilwoman Boleware suggested that a representative from the commission present the public service announcement at a city council meeting, which will be aired on YouTube and other channels. At this time, the redetermination announcement is ongoing; however, it is likely that the commission has exhausted what it can do on this topic. Suggestions for February topics included mental health, career shortages (especially in healthcare), and heart health. Eunice noted that self-esteem is directly linked to self-sufficiency and self-efficacy, and also discussed the Michigan Reconnect program. Collaborating with Senator Rosemary Bayer regarding funding was discussed among commissioners. Molly noted that careers in healthcare can be an ongoing topic throughout the year.

Councilwoman Boleware shared that she worked in healthcare consulting for 35 years and highlighted the importance of maximizing funding opportunities. She suggested that commissioners look into putting a project together in order to get community members active and engaged. Bernard discussed his organization's work in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) endeavors, as well as media consumption and misinformation. Bernard suggested a motion to explore the prospect of putting together a forum to plan a larger-scale event. Mr. Khan inquired as to the intended audience of this event, with both Bernard and Molly sharing their perspectives on how best to develop the event. Molly raised the motion to explore having a forum regarding healthcare opportunities, the Reconnect program, and enrolling in community college, with Eunice supporting the motion. The motion was approved by the commission.

Location and timing of the event was discussed by the commission after approval of the motion. In all likelihood, the event will be held at The Hawk Community Center in April. Teresa indicated that she will contact The Hawk tomorrow to try and secure a room, but warned the commission that rooms at the Hawk book up a year in advance.

**Community Environmental Planting Project:** Bernard described an encounter he had with an entomologist, specifically their discussion surrounding how the bee shortage is affecting social determinants of health. Bernard tasked the commission to consider the prospect of a project focused on planting of indigenous foliage for the area that would replenish the bee and insect population that was lost due to building in the wetland. The area near Haggerty and M-5 was mentioned as a possibility. Various approaches, including the use of student groups or the Department of Natural Resources, were suggested. Councilwoman Boleware suggested that the commission partner with the city's Beautification Commission on this project.

**Election of Officers:** The election is postponed until March, at which time a new chairperson, co-chairperson, and secretary will be decided.

**Budget Update:** Teresa does not have an update on the current budget. This will be provided at the next meeting.

**Member and Public Comments/Announcements:** Mr. Khan indicated that he initially understood the commission to be focused solely on health-related topics. Bernard described the ways in which the commission has evolved over time in order to serve the broader community and their health-related needs. Mr. Khan shared his experience working with seniors at health camps and encouraged the commission to consider partnering with local hospitals and healthcare organizations on wellness events. Mr. Khan discussed barriers to medical care and how the commission can address specific issues, such as hypertension, that have numerous long-term health consequences. Bernard shared some concerns about potential liability and the need to ensure connection to the city. Eunice and Jackie introduced ways that liability can be reduced. DMC and Corewell were mentioned as potential collaborators for this event.

**Next Meeting:** The next commission meeting will be held **February 21, 2024** at 6:30 PM.

**Adjournment:** Eunice moved to adjourn the meeting, with Molly supporting the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.