



*City of Hamtramck*

3401 Evaline Street Hamtramck, Michigan 48212

Telephone 313-800-5233

**Arts and Culture Commission**

Regular Meeting

10.June 2024; 7:05PM – **IN PERSON at Ukrainian American Archives & Museum**

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1. Call to Order

**7:17 pm**

2. Roll Call

**Tim Price, Lynn Blasey, Jetshri Bhadviya, Jessica Donnelly, Maria Vujic**

**Dwydell Garrett**

**Excused: Dusty Conley**

3. Announcements by Public Officials

**None present**

4. Public Comment (three minutes limited to Arts & Culture issues)

**Olga from UAA&M discussed meeting Mohammed from the Motivational Art Gallery, he is interested in meeting members of the commission to discuss his gallery and intended programming/shows there.**

**Olga also recommended Mohammed meet with Passener Recovery as they also focus on healing through creative endeavors.**

**The UAA&M is hosting painting classes, and the upcoming Ink and Identity show, opens July 12<sup>th</sup>. The show focuses on the tattoos people have gotten during specifically the war in the last couple of years.**

5. Approval of Agenda

**Lynn motioned to approve**

**Jessica seconded**

**Passed unanimously**

6. Approval of Minutes from our last meeting

**Jessica motioned with changes; name correction Time to Tim**

**Jetshri seconded**

**Passed unanimously**

**SECTION I: AGENDA ITEMS – For Discussion/Action/Information**

a. New Ideas, and discussion for 2024 (intro'd by each [HAC Commission](#), and attendees partake)

**Moving to after item J**

b. Subcommittee update on CED/City of Hamtramck's Alley Project (Tim & Lynn) + merge with our:

**[Hamtramck Joe Louis Greenway](#)**

- **Hamtramck section of JLG is on hold. The city of Detroit is going forward with all their sections, Hamtramck will present a gap that bicyclists will likely come through anyway.**
- **Holbrook between Jos Campau and I-75 is getting a bike lane, American Axle is supporting this project. Detroit's side of Holbrook to Woodward is not something they**

have completed studies for yet as it hasn't been a priority for the City of Detroit. In the meantime, as roadwork happens in that section, Detroit will do studies in those areas and decide later if a bike lane is feasible there.

- There is still a great need for education on how to share the road with cyclists to ensure safety for all people on the road

c. [Hamtramck Neighborhood Arts Festival](#) recap (Tim & Maria)

- Date set for October 5<sup>th</sup>!
- We have poster art, will be rolling out soon
- Website is moving forward with trying to integrate the signup with the webpage
- Motion that the commission will support the HNAF – Lynn  
Seconded by Jetshri  
Passed unanimously
- Having an artists' market again, possibly at Planet Ant – in talks to have an event there
- Tim is working on an exhibit to tie into national coming out day which is October 11<sup>th</sup> for lgbt artists

d. [Labor Day Fest](#) + 2024 info booth at Caniff – (Tim, Maria & Dusty)

- Tim is pushing to be near Caniff, the booth will only be HACC and HNAF
- Exhibiting artists in our booth – specifically the artist from the HNAF poster
  - Not doing sales in the booth for artists, but could fundraise with some merchandise for the HACC or HNAF
- Need to have shifts to man the booth during festival hours
- Discussion about yacht races, commissioners would need to spearhead it if there is an interest

e. [Hamtronic](#) updated on [Movement](#) (Memorial Weekend) + plans for [Labor Day Fest](#) (Tim)

- Highlights from this year:
  - In store event at Threads, party at Baker Street, party at High Dive, and party at Planet Ant.
  - Probably cannot pull off a dance tent at Labor Day Fest this year without D from Planet Ant being involved anymore. Tabling Labor Day dance tent.

f. [HQA](#) – update on [June Pride Month](#) & organization – (Tim & Lynn)

- HQA marched in the motor city pride parade on June 9<sup>th</sup> with about 15 people
- The late night shopping/pub crawl will not be happening, the organization is only two members and they don't have the bandwidth to get it done this year.
- Vandalism during pride month hasn't been as bad this year as compared to last.
- Jetshri will work with HQA, and is creating a subcommittee "Pride Programming Committee". She wants to focus on educational programming in June 2025, and to look

into applying for humanities grants that would support this. Programming could also include health programming, and hosting bridging conversations between communities.

- g. [Juneteenth](#) – update (Lynn & Dwydell)
- Lynn & Dwydell are not a part of the group hosting the walk. But adjacent to that will host walkers at Sarah Garrett Park.
  - Lynn & Dwydell are providing coffee and donuts at Sarah Garrett park for the walkers at Sarah Garrett Park starting at 10am. They're decorating the pavilion, and Dwydell has a DJ. Dwydell will speak at 11 about the resolution of the case (housing discrimination case).
- h. Update on our [HACC](#) website & Merchandise fundraiser through [CustomCat](#) (Tim & Dusty)
- Dusty will send out an update when he returns from vacation, he has been working on the designs.
  - Jetshri is joining this committee.
  - Website forwarding [hamtramckart.org](#) to [hamtramckarts.org](#)
- i. Review options for HACC fiduciary. HCI? Passenger? (Tim)
- Work on using Passenger as the fiduciary with Jessica (treasurer).
  - Motion to explore Passenger as the fiduciary – Jessica  
Lynn seconded  
Passed unanimously
  - Passenger is also going to be the fiduciary for HNAF, they are more inline with what the commission is doing in the community.
- j. Treasurer report – (Tim & Jessica)
- Tim has asked for a balance from HCI, they have not provided it.
  - Tim met with the comptroller and they can setup a bank account through the city, would need to meet with the city attorney.
  - The ECE through the DDA is looking into making a non-profit, so there are multiple options for fiduciaries/banking.
  - Cinema LaMont is also a 501c3 that has worked with HACC on projects in the past.
- k. k/ moved from item a New Ideas, and discussion for 2024 (intro'd by each [HAC Commission](#), and attendees partake)
- Jetshri's new pride committee, Tim will join.
  - Dwydell- fundraising idea, with the wine club, host at their location. Dwydell is a member and could host this. Possibly in the winter once the fiduciary is established. Would need to consider if this is appropriate with Passenger, they are a recovery center, not sure if we could raise funds through an alcohol based event. – Tabling this until fiduciary is established and/or bank account is set up with the city.
  - Jessi and Tim are planning queer movie nights as weekly or monthly events throughout the city. Hoping to kick off their project by September. With Cinema LaMont.

- I. Proposed **Thursday, 05. September 2024** Meeting (*in person, at [UAAM](#)*)? Or?– (Tim)

## **SECTION II: OTHER ITEMS**

1. Public Comment (*three minutes limited to Arts & Culture issues*)

**Olga – issues between Congressman Thanedar and city government, the congressman is withholding funding for Hamtramck projects**

2. Chairman's Report

**Tim, through HNAF will bring updates on his planned projects in September to see if the commission will support those in any way.**

3. Members' Report

**Lynn – provides context for moving away from HCI as the fiduciary. Hamtramck Mutual Aid applied for grants, leadership of HCI was unresponsive with information needed to accept the grant. Another non-profit stepped in as an emergency fiduciary. HMA resigned from HCI. Lynn had a \$20,000 grant last year for Hamtramck Area Disaster Relief, and it was difficult to spend the money through HCI, so she will have to request a check to return funds to the grant providers. Lynn is resigning at the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, effective June 30<sup>th</sup>. Lynn reads her resignation letter, with response from former and current the board chairs, see attached at the end.**

**Lynn will become co-director of the department she currently works in it at College for Creative Studies. This department does free art programming in Hamtramck, Detroit, Highland Park. A member of that staff has identified 48212 as a target area for youth programs. Look for updates on future projects soon.**

**Jetshri – has been working with Mighty Real Queer Detroit since 2022, and believes very strongly in supporting artists and the lgbtq community, but will be severing ties with their board director, and thus the organization, at the end of June over concerns of the lack of transparency on how funds are being used/mishandled.**

**Jetshri's statement:** "MRQD has done good to support LGBTQ community. A third of the artists were from Detroit, some from NY as well as LA and few international artists. Vudon was hired to do press. The exhibition was covered in media through artnet, WDET, the art newspaper, Axios to name a few. Other than WDET mentions Patrick Burton, the director of MR/QD has not acknowledged his team and board for the work they have put in. I will not be working with Patrick again but I do believe in MR/QD's mission to support LGBTQ+ community and artists. Also since we want to support and empower more Hamtramck and Detroit artists our missions don't align any more as MR/QD is moving to become more national and international."

**Dwydell – has restarted a chess club, they will be at Book Suey on Wednesday evenings. HACC will promote the program.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting: Tim**

**Seconded: Lynn**

**Adjourned: 8:51pm**

PLEASE NOTE: This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.71 a (2)(3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). City of Hamtramck will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the Meeting to individuals with disabilities at the Meeting or Public Hearing upon 10 days notice to the City Clerk's Office. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hamtramck City Clerk by writing or calling the Clerk's Office at (313) 870-0343.



Lynn Blasey &lt;blaseyly@gmail.com&gt;

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**Cancelling MOU for Hamtramck Mutual Aid**

1 message

**Julia Sosin** <juliasosin@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 18, 2024 at 2:34 PM

To: Lynn Blasey &lt;blaseyly@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: Adnan Gobah &lt;118005a@gmail.com&gt;, Barbara Beesley &lt;akarubyv@aol.com&gt;, Sam Gobah &lt;bgobah@gmail.com&gt;, Max Gilginas &lt;mgilginas@hamtramckcity.com&gt;, Hamtramck Mutual Aid &lt;mutualaidhamtramck@gmail.com&gt;

Hello,

I would like to cancel my previous request for an MOU with HCI and Hamtramck Mutual Aid for 2024. We will not be continuing to be fiscally sponsored by HCI.

I would like to zero out our account and pay out any remaining balance owed from 2023 fiscal sponsorship fee.

Please let me know.

Thank you!

Julia Sosin  
Hamtramck Mutual Aid

On Thu, Mar 7, 2024, 11:06 AM Julia Sosin <juliasosin@gmail.com> wrote:

Attached is a Word Doc of the MOU for 2024 that Hamtramck Mutual Aid would like updated. Please let me know if you have any questions!

On Fri, Jan 5, 2024, 10:18 AM Julia Sosin <juliasosin@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello HCI Board,

Hamtramck Mutual Aid, one of the sponsored projects, would like to request an updated MOU with HCI as soon as possible. The last copy I have in my records is one that Sharon and I submitted to the board for March 15, 2023 meeting to review.

We are applying for a small seedling grant with Wayne Metro to work on neighborhood improvement projects with seniors. We need an updated MOU that shows our liability insurance will be covered under HCI.

On a related note, Bassam if you can kindly please let me know the fee that we paid for 2023 so I can keep in our records

I have cc'ed Max Gilginas, Community Involvement Coordinator with the City, who is helping us with the grant.

Thank you so much,

Julia Sosin  
248.978.2662

Hamtramck Mutual Aid  
313.217.1442

6/5/2024

HCI Board,

I'm writing to announce my resignation from the HCI board at the June 12, 2024 meeting effective June 30, 2024 to provide time to wrap up the HADRG finances and records with HCI.

On July 1, 2024 I'm being promoted to Co-Director at work and am actively dropping extracurricular activities in order to have more time and energy to invest in my new position.

The Hamtramck Area Disaster Recovery Group has completed work with the 2021 flood and will not be actively involved in any new disasters at this time. We'll no longer need a fiduciary.

As an organizing leader with Hamtramck Mutual Aid, I was also alarmed that there were no responses to Julia and Max's requests for support documents upon receipt of a grant earlier this year. The lack of response from the chair and treasurer would have led to us losing the grant had another organization not stepped in at the last minute to act as a temporary fiduciary and supplied the needed documents for us.

Another reason for my departure is the consistent lack of inclusion exhibited by HCI board members specifically as it relates to the queer community. The HCI bylaws state the following:

**Section 1.7** Organizing Principles. (a) Hamtramck Citizens have the collective responsibility to our **entire** community. (b) Hamtramck Citizens have the right to live in a **crime free** and clean environment (c) Hamtramck Citizens have the right to the **pursuit of Happiness** and establish a just quality of life.

Last summer, several residents were vandalized and Barb tried to talk about outreach efforts and what the Citizen Patrol could do to help ensure the safety of our queer neighbors and allies. Each time, she was talked over and her ideas were not given consideration. In December 2023 when getting keys to the office, I asked about access to the social media accounts as secretary and concerns about my affiliation with the queer community were raised and access was never granted. At the March 2024 meeting, I was accused of putting pride flags in the HCI office when I had hung old HCI posters from 2016 (that happened to have a rainbow in the graphics) up to cover a crack in the wall and help show that the space was being used. From my experience, it does not appear that the actions of HCI are in line with the inclusion principles set in the mission and bylaws. The lack of protection, support, and care extended to queer community members, including myself, by HCI does not sit well with me.

All of my HCI files are located in this folder:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zaCQUryYnBtl66CHWbM8SOKfvx7SXcqy?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zaCQUryYnBtl66CHWbM8SOKfvx7SXcqy?usp=drive_link) Please download them so I can free up space in my Google Drive by September 30, 2024.

Thank you,  
Lynn Blasey

Rev. Sharon A. Buttry, MSW  
2300 Neibel Street  
Hamtramck, MI 48212

6/5/2024

Dear HCI Board,

I'm writing to express my deep concern and sadness about the resignation of Lynn Blasey and the departure of the Hamtramck Mutual Aid group from the HCI organization.

The concerns stated by both in their letters of resignation and removal should be taken seriously and a remedy proposed. At worst, you could be exposing the organization to legal action based on discrimination, in violation of the HCI articles and bylaws — a risk I am sure you don't want to spend energy upon. Also regrettable is a tarnishing of the reputation of the organization that you just honored me for founding, along with others who spent countless hours over the years of diligent labor. We built an exemplary and responsive community lighthouse of hope and help. As a 501 c3 charitable organization, you have a responsibility to carry out the organizing principles, vision and mission of HCI, no matter what your personal or religious beliefs and views may be. This is your duty and legal responsibility as a Board member.

At the very least, I would encourage you to reach out to both Lynn and Julia and to offer an apology and remedy. I would encourage you to talk with Barbara Beesley, also a long time Board member about why her concerns were not taken seriously by Citizen Patrol to protect the safety of all citizens when there was vandalism against people who, like you, are entitled to civil rights protected by law.

I would also encourage each of you to examine your roles as leaders and install leaders who can give the time and attention this organization deserves, as well as support the bylaws and organizing principles. If that cannot be managed, I would support the dissolution of the organization.

Again, I am very sad to have to write this letter. I truly wish I had the capacity to continue in a leadership role, but I cannot at this time.

Sincerely,



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Adnan Gobah** <[118005a@gmail.com](mailto:118005a@gmail.com)>

Date: Fri, Jun 7, 2024 at 10:22 AM

Subject: Discrimination Concerns

To: <[catherinezatsick129.Z@gmail.com](mailto:catherinezatsick129.Z@gmail.com)>, Lynn Blasey <[blaseyly@gmail.com](mailto:blaseyly@gmail.com)>, Barbara Beesley <[akarubyv@aol.com](mailto:akarubyv@aol.com)>, Sam Gobah <[bgobah@gmail.com](mailto:bgobah@gmail.com)>, <[christopher.w.tait@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.w.tait@gmail.com)>, Sharon Buttry <[hcinonprofit@gmail.com](mailto:hcinonprofit@gmail.com)>, <[jessica.moon1132@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.moon1132@gmail.com)>, Sharon Buttry <[hamtrilogy@gmail.com](mailto:hamtrilogy@gmail.com)>, <[mnagi1998@gmail.com](mailto:mnagi1998@gmail.com)>, Timothy Price <[timprice313@googlemail.com](mailto:timprice313@googlemail.com)>, Nayeem Choudhury <[waleeenterprise@gmail.com](mailto:waleeenterprise@gmail.com)>

Dear HCI Members,

First I would like to say that we are deeply saddened by Lynn Blasey's and Roger Sisler's departure from the HCI, as they played great roles and were very important members. I want to start off by personally thanking them both for their hard work and support.

There has been concerns put up by different members of the HCI regarding the views of the board and where our organization stands in terms of the LGBTQ+ community. The HCI was built on inclusion and equality for all and is a means to support and nurture all individuals in our community regardless of race, gender, religion, and sexual identity. No one is less deserving or more deserving of protection in our community. Especially in a time like this where the world is so divided, the HCI should be a place of inclusion where the members and even citizens feel like they can speak up if they feel unsafe and we should be able to answer those questions and concerns, especially as the Hamtramck Citizen Patrol.

With that being said, during our meeting last summer when Barbara brought up concerns of vandalism and death threats towards the LGBTQ+, we as citizen patrol members take that just as seriously as any other vandalism or hate speech. During our citizen patrol and HCI meetings, we discuss various situations that happen in the city. Serious problems like death threats should be taken very seriously and that should be handed to the police, because this is a crime that requires legal action. The HCI takes these matters seriously but as you know the Hamtramck Citizen Patrol's duty is to contact the police if we find something concerning like any other issue we have recorded during our meetings. Once something is passed to the police it is not our job to handle it anymore, as our job revolves around patrolling and reporting what we see to the police and/or members. Our job is to educate people and discuss these situations in our meetings and keep an eye out if we notice anything. Hate crimes towards the LGBTQ+ or any other hate crime is not a minor vandalism issue, but a major crime that needs the police involved for the actual protection of said person, a position we are not qualified for. I apologize if Barbara or any other member felt like these concerns were not taken seriously, because they are very serious, but these issues need to be raised to police officials. I hope everyone shares my view on the fact that if you see any hate



speech or action done to discriminate against the LGBTQ+ to speak up and let us know because regardless of how small you think the hate crime is, it must be reported to the police, where they can take proper measures to protect the citizens.

As for the concern for the picture being put up on the wall that may have contained a LGBTQ+ flag, we were told by the city that no other flag but the USA and Michigan flag can be put up inside city hall. I want to assure you that this has nothing to do with discrimination of the LGBTQ+ but a legal situation.

I understand many may have felt that this needed answers as they had concerns, and I'm glad this topic has been brought up so we can make a clear stand on where the board, members, and organization are when it comes to the LGBTQ+. As you all know, we are all volunteers to make this city better and inclusive to all. There are many people who live in Hamtramck who come from different backgrounds whether that is their religion, race, gender, or sexual orientation. It is our duty as members of the HCI for us to put down any personal views away when we are volunteering for the people, and I hope that no one has hateful personal views towards any of these groups.

Everyone in the HCI and Citizen Patrol are highly valued, respected and important and I hope that no one felt alienated or discriminated against for any reason. As a multi-cultural city that hosts many different backgrounds we need to be able to have a middle ground where we respect and value one another to live in peace in this wonderful city. Since this is a very serious issue that was raised by more than one person, I think it's best if we discuss it more and recognize that everyone is included and heard in the HCI. I will personally make sure that no member discriminates against anyone for their background in the HCI. If anyone feels any concern please feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing you all on June 12, where we will discuss this further and affirm these beliefs of equality.

With Lynn and Roger leaving, we need more members who can join and volunteer, we hope that people from different backgrounds can join and we can have more representation of different backgrounds in the City of Hamtramck.

Sincerely,

Adnan Gobah