

Metuchen Human Relations Commission

Tuesday, December 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Call To Order: 7:39

Attendance of Commission Members & Liasons

		✓	Shannan Gonzalez	✓	Richard Green III
	Dylan Jaques	✓	Hazel-Anne Johnson-Marcus		Amanda Lin
✓	Asela Mourao	✓	Ozair Omarzai	✓	Andrea Orlando
✓	Edward Porowski	✓	Sheri-Rose Rubin	✓	Michelle Tang
✓	Nadia Tariq		Bobbie Theivakumaran	✓	Reena Wade
✓	Ed Zelley				

Welcome to any members of the public/public comment: Hazel-Anne Johnson-Marcus

Review & Approval of November minutes: Approved by all who were in attendance.

Comments sent from the public:

Old Business:

- **Farewells** - Reena Wade, Ozair Omarzai, Richard Green III and Asela Mourao are resigning from the Metuchen HRC. This is their last meeting. They have each contributed a tremendous amount to the HRC and will be sorely missed. The HRC is taking recommendations and actively looking for replacements.

This is also Council-woman Sheri-Rose Rubin's last meeting as she is stepping down from her position on the Borough Council. In order for prospective members to join the commission, current members should encourage them to submit their applications and resumes on the Borough website. In order to generate interest, the HRC can also create a flyer that encourages prospective members to submit an application. The Mayor & Council will make the final determination about who joins the HRC.

- **Human Rights Day** - Reena updated the HRC on behalf of the Human Rights Day subcommittee. The deadline for the Youth Art contest has been extended to Wednesday 12/8. The subcommittee asks that everyone encourage any youth who may be interested to submit their art work around this year's theme, which is Equality. The event is on Friday 12/10 from 6:00-6:30. There will be a photo booth, hot cocoa, table of buttons & candy canes, books on display, and equality statements read by community members. The subcommittee invites the entire HRC to submit a response to the question: What does equality mean to you? Members are invited to attend the event and read their statements aloud. Reach out to Reena to be added to the agenda.

New Business:

Liaison Reports

- Hazel-Anne reported on the success of the District's vaccine clinics at the Moss School in partnership with the Boyt Drugs pharmacy. Fully vaccinated students (two weeks after the second vaccination) do not need to quarantine in cases of exposure as long as they are symptom free.
- Father Zelle reported the HRC on behalf of MEAICA that there will be a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day service at the New Hope Baptist Church on Sunday, January 16, 2021. He believes the theme may be related to the question, "what does it mean to make good trouble?" which references the late Congressman John Lewis. More information to follow. The HRC will help to promote the service via our social media channels.
- Sheri-Rose Rubin shared that the HRC can move forward with the Williams' Scholarship for graduating Metuchen High School Seniors. The High School will work directly with the donor, Mr. James Belikove, and eligible applications will be sent to the scholarship committee to review and help choose the recipient.
- Reena Wade - the Arts council will be continuing their Windows of Understanding. Bob Diken is the contact person, and Reena will put them in touch with Hazel-Anne to continue the partnership.
- Ed Porowski - Samantha King, the CHOP specialist who presented at the Demystifying Gender... has been instrumental in working with District administrators, and teachers and training them on gender fluidity, pronoun usage and how to better honor and support our students.
- **Other New Business** - HRC members should start thinking of ways to celebrate Black History Month in February.

Upcoming Meeting/Important Dates

- January 4: Metuchen HRC Meeting at 6:30 pm

Jan 4 | Feb 1 | March 1 | April 5 | May 3 | June 7 | July 5 | Aug. 2 | Sept. 6 | Oct. 4 | Nov. 1 | Dec. 6

Adjourned: 8:30