

Metuchen Human Relations Commission

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Call To Order: 7:39

Attendance of Commission Members & Liasons

✓	1. Joel Branch (Council Liaison)	✓	2. Khalila Cruz (Member)	✓	3. Shannan Foat-Gelber (Member)
✓	4. Rebecca Greenbaum (Member)	✓	5. Laura Hermans (Member)	✓	6. Jacqueline Ho (Member)
	7. Dylan Jaques (HS Junior Liaison)	✓	8. Hazel-Anne Johnson-Marcus (Chair & BOE Liaison)	✓	9. Abdullah Khan (Member)
✓	10. Amanda Lin (Member)	✓	11. Joanne Cruz (Member)	✓	12. Andrea Orlando (Member)
	13. Edward Porowski (School District Liaison)	✓	14. Michelle Tang (HS Senior Liaison)	✓	15. Nadia Tariq (Secretary)
✓	16. Bobbie Theivakumaran (MDA Liaison)		17. Edmund Zelley (MEAICA Liaison)	✓	18. Audra Sbarra (Accessibility Commission Liaison)

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

Review & Approval of February minutes: Laura Hermans

- February 2022 Minutes approved

Old Business:

- Windows of Understanding partnership with Metuchen Arts Council.
 - **WOU Community Conversation on Thursday, March 10, at 7:30 pm.**
 - All HRC members are encouraged to attend the conversation.
- Williams Scholarship
 - Subcommittee members needed (Hazel-Anne, Nadia & Laura, we need 1-2 more members). Email address created for the scholarship submissions: WilliamsScholarshipMHRC@gmail.com.
- 2022 Metuchen HRC Event Subcommittee Discussion
 - Juneteenth Celebration: June 18, 2022, 6:00-8:00pm at the Metuchen Plaza.
 - Theme: Afrofuturism
 - Drum major lines, two step dance performances, majorette dance performance, tap dancing performance, opera singer (soprano)
 - 7:30pm-8:15pm: Speakers
 - 8:30pm: Black is King movie showing (1.5 hrs long)
- 2023 Event Planning timeline.
 - May 2022: Begin planning for 2023 Black History Month

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New Business

- Liaison Reports

- Hazel-Anne Johnson-Marcus (BOE Liaison)
 - At the February 22 meeting, the Metuchen BOE approved the 2022-2023 school calendar. A number of members of the public expressed disappointment that the second day of Rosh Hashanah was not observed.
- Councilperson Joel Branch (Council Liaison)
 - No updates
- Audra Sbarra (Accessibility Committee Liaison)
 - Accessibility Committee Community conversation with AARP tentatively scheduled for April. Topic: “Livable communities” (planning ahead for the future in terms of safety, accessibility and inclusion). HRC invited to assist in planning
- Bobbie Theivakumaran (MDA Liaison)
 - There have been requests from community members for religious and country-specific celebratory events. However, per Borough regulations, the MDA and HRC can not sponsor religious or country-specific events.

- Other New Business

- The Metuchen YMCA reached out to the HRC about potential future event collaborations. One of the officers will follow up.
- A community member shared information about the Ackerman Grant, which is available to support civic organizations. HRC members were asked to consider ways that the HRC could utilize this grant for the 2023 grant application cycle.

2022 Meeting Dates:

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

Adjourned: 8:31pm