

## Metuchen Human Relations Commission

Tuesday, September 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Start Time: 7:42pm

✓	1. Joel Branch (Council Liaison)	✓	2. Khalila Cruz (Member)		3. Shannan Foat-Gelber (Member)
✓	4. Rebecca Greenbaum (Member)	✓	5. Laura Hermans (Secretary)		6. Jacqueline Ho (Member)
	7. Dylan Jaques (HS Senior 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. Emma Staal (HS Junior Liaison)	✓	15. Nadia Tariq (Co-Chair)
✓	16. Bobbie Theivakumaran (MDA Liaison)		17. Edmund Zelley (MEAICA Liaison)	✓	18. Audra Sbarra (Accessibility Committee Liaison)

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

Metuchen Police Department Liaison: Ptl. Aurel Louis

### **Review & Approval of June and July minutes:** Laura Hermans

July Attendance: Joel, Shannan, Laura, Hazel-Anne, Amanda

June attendance: Dylan, Khalila, Laura, Hazel-Anne, Joanne, Michelle, Fr. Zelley, Nadia

- June and July minutes Approved

### **Old Business:**

- Metuchen Farmers Market table - Thank you to those who volunteered

### **New Business**

- Remembering Martin Spritzer Event
  - Metuchen Library on Saturday, September 10th, 2:00pm - 4:00pm.  
All HRC members are encouraged to attend.
- Hispanic Heritage Month Subcommittee - September 15th - October 15th
  - Subcommittee will connect with Melinda Dibenedetto of the YMCA
  - Melinda Dibenedetto: Brenda Wernewski, wellness and fitness director at Metuchen YMCA, will help coordinate with a dance instructor to teach a Hispanic dance, about 45 minutes long to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month. October 15th is a tentative date for a Borough event. Due to the coinciding community yard sale on this date, the event could occur after the sale (4:00p-7:00p).
- Thomas Mundy Peterson Day of Democracy
  - Saturday October 8th, 11:00am - 1:00pm

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- Educate the community about Thomas Mundy Peterson, civics and the power of voting. Mr. Peterson was born in Metuchen and was the first black person to vote in the USA.
- HRC volunteers, along with the League of Women Voters, will facilitate voter registration and confirm that registered voters' information is up to date. Voter information stations will be throughout our downtown at Cai's, Pastry Lu's and Imagination Alley.
- Indigenous People's Day
  - October 10th
  - Khalila will reach out to Campbell School for their contacts about the Lenape curriculum.
- National Caregiver Month - November
  - Subcommittee Members: Audra, Andrea
  - Social media campaign
- Human Rights Day
  - December 10th, on the Plaza in the evening
  - Subcommittee Members: Nadia, Rebecca, Laura
- Community Conversations:
  - Respect of Asian Names: Will follow up next meeting
  - Breaking the boys will be boys mindset: Will follow up next meeting
- Winter Festival Parade
  - November 27th 3:30p-6:30p
  - HRC volunteers needed to walk

### Liaison Reports

- Hazel-Anne Johnson-Marcus ( Board of Education Liaison )
  - Metuchen School District had a successful first day of school
- Audra Sbarra ( Accessibility Council Liaison )
  - Accessibili-tea, a story time at the Metuchen Library featuring the book: Just Ask! By Sonia Sotomayor, was a success. The Metuchen Recreation Committee and Senior committee will partner to offer community education on new changes to Medicare and Medicare expansion.
- Bobbie Theivakumaran (MDA Liaison )
  - Haunted Downtown will take place on October 29th, 11:00am - 4:00pm. This year's event will feature a "Peace Pod", which will be a quiet area available to any community members who may need sensory relief.
  - House party on the Plaza on December 30th
- We welcome Emma Staal as our new High School Junior Liaison

### 2022 Meeting Dates:

Oct. 4 | Nov. 1 | Dec. 6

Adjourned : 8:48pm