

**Metuchen Human Relations Commission**

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

**Metuchen Borough Hall**

Start Time: 7:31pm

✓	1. Suneet Bhatt (Member)		2. Joel Branch (Council Liaison)	✓	3. Joanne Cruz (Member)
	4. Khalila Cruz (Member)	✓	5. Wayne Karalevich (MPD Liaison)		6. Laura Hermans (Secretary)
✓	7. Jacqueline Ho (Member)	✓	8. Dylan Jaques (HS Senior Liaison)		9. Hazel-Anne Johnson-Marcus (Chair & BOE Liaison)
	10. Amanda Lin (Member)	✓	11. Tara Matisse (Member)	✓	12. Andrea Orlando (Member)
	13. Edward Porowski (School District Liaison)	✓	14. Emma Staal (HS Junior Liaison)	✓	15. Nadia Tariq (Vice Chair)
	16. Bobbie Theivakumaran (MDA Liaison)	✓	17. Bhavi Vyas (Member)		18. Edmund Zelle (MEAICA Liaison)

**Welcome to members of the public/public comment:**

- CJ
- Caroline Muglia
- Lt. Karalevich
- Shailen Gandhi

**Review & Approval of minutes:** Nadia Tariq

- March 2023 Meeting Attendance: Joel, Joanne, Khalila, Laura, Jackie, Dylan, Hazel-Anne, Amanda, Ed. P. - Not approved

**Old Business:**

- Windows of Understanding: Thank you to all who participated! - Wayne and Bhavi shared that the event went very well.
- Autism Acceptance Month: Nadia will start an email out to the subcommittee to start planning.
- Land Acknowledgement Statement: Caroline Muglia is joining the subcommittee to help draft the statement.
- Making community events more accessible and welcoming -Daddy Daughter Dance and Mother Son Bowling - HRC will follow up with Colleen Friend about reaching out to the Rick Perrine, Borough Recreation Director about these events

**New Business:**

- Williams Scholarship Committee formation
  - Recipient represents DEI understanding and acceptance at Metuchen High School and in the community.
  - Contact Mrs. Hambridge regarding adding an addendum onto the description; inquiring about specific financial aid. The Campbell school

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scholarship application may be used as a guideline/reference for the financial need question.

- Applications are due April 28th. The subcommittee will meet to choose the winner.
- Metuchen Neighborhood Network (Common Agency) - Vika
  - Per Elena's email: Pilot has been launched, including weekly questions and a website with the community's responses. Forging connections between community members with shared interests both on and offline. Does HRC have recommendations for local outreach channels to reach more diverse groups? For example, the network doesn't currently include many individuals from Gen Z.
    - Vika/Elena would like to include other stewards to help brainstorm and connect people with one another. Perhaps an internship? And ask if Gen Z would like to become members of the MNN?
    - Emma stated that internships are often emailed out by the school. Mr. P might be a good person to reach out to.
    - Shailen shared that there is a site at school they can use to
    - Nadia will fill in Hazel-Anne and get back to Vika about how to start the process of reaching out to the younger population and connect them to one another.
- Pride Month: Joanne shared that she is working at Laura on selling the Metuchen Pride shirts at New Market. Bhavi mentioned the idea we previously discussed about a rainbow crosswalk - she will reach out to Jason and update us
- Diverse Books: Shailen shared ideas to get more diverse books into the elementary and middle schools. Shailen will connect with the CES librarian to share a list with Edgar School.

### **Liaison Reports:**

- Lt. Wayne Karalevich: The Safe Place stickers are here and are very nice. The PD will put together a presentation so people are aware and informed prior to distribution. The MDA will be part of that effort.

### **Upcoming Activities:**

- AAPI and Jewish American Heritage Month (May)
- UN World Day (May 21)
- Pride Month

### **2023 Meeting Dates:**

**June 6 | July 11 | September 5 | October 3 | November 7 | December 5**

Adjourned: 8:15 pm