

Metuchen Human Relations Commission

Tuesday, July 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Metuchen Borough Hall

Start Time: 7:35pm

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

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

Michael Geschlecht
Shailen Gandhi
Alex Reisig
Melinda Dibenedetto
Prabha Jha
Marina

Review & Approval of June 2023 minutes:

- June 2023 Meeting Attendance: Suneet, Joanne, Khalila, Wayne, Laura, Dylan, Hazel-Anne, Amanda, Tara, Andrea, Ed P., Emma, Nadia (7 members needed for approval)
 - Quorum not established

Old Business:

- Thank you to those who volunteered for Juneteenth Events!
- Land Acknowledgement Statement
 - Community member Caroline Muglia, began the process of creating a proposal document. Subcommittee plans to meet again before the end of the summer.
- Wellness on the Plaza Event
 - Planning is still in the early stages.
 - Terrace and Yoga Lotus are interested in participating.
 - Speakers will include Suneet and a Psychologist.
 - The Metuchen Public Library would like to partner for this event, Justine

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Johnson is the contact person. Alcoholics Anonymous would like to have a table at the event. The library will make donations for the seed library.

- Reach out to Metuchen Cares to inquire about their participation.
- Alex Reisig is the director of membership and engagement at the Metuchen YMCA. The YMCA would like to be involved with wellness day. Can possibly provide an instructor to run a class.
- South Asian Heritage Month Event will be on Friday, July 21, 2023 from 6:00pm-8:00 pm on the Metuchen Plaza
 - Presentation of 8 South Asian Countries
 - High School Dragon Dance Performance
 - Classical Dances from India, Pakistan and Bhutan
 - Henna Station
 - Craft Table
 - Photo Booth
 - Bindi Table
 - Rangoli Art
 - Dupatta Table
 - Volunteers are needed for Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bhutan tables. Volunteers will create the design of the tables. Event hosts will help volunteers learn about each country.
- Rainbow Crosswalk
 - Subcommittee plans to meet before our next meeting. Planning should be completed prior to November due to anticipated paving in town.
- This September 8th-17th, the YMCA will celebrate “Welcoming Week”. During this week, the YMCA will celebrate the growing movement of communities that fully embrace newcomer immigrants and their contributions to the social fabric of our country.

Upcoming Activities:

- Wellness Event (September 9)
- Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15)

Liaison Reports:

Hazel-Anne Johnson-Marcus (BOE Liaison)

- Metuchen High School 2023 Graduation was a success.

Cantor Simkin

- Cantor Simkin expressed her excitement to join the HRC as the MEAICA Liaison.

Metuchen Downtown Alliance

- Plans are underway for Hispanic Heritage Month.

2023 Meeting Dates:

September 5 | October 3 | November 7 | December 5

End Time: 8:20pm