

Metuchen Human Relations Commission

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order: Ms. Jiorle called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM sharp.
Attendees: Nicole Blankiet, Richard Green, III, Leah Jiorle, Hazel-Anne Johnson, Asela Mourao, Aiden Nelson, Ben Small and Reena Wade.

Welcome to any members of the public/public comment: Ms. Jiorle reported there were no comments from the public.

Review & Approval of January minutes: Discussed edits to minutes related to events for the year. Revised minutes were circulated as final by Ms. Wade on February 7, 2018.

Council Liaison Report: There was no Council Liaison report at the February meeting.

Old Business:

Communication Tools Commission members discussed possible methods and/or tools to receive comments from the public in addition to the noticed, open, public meetings. There was agreement that an official email address was the best way to receive comments outside of HRC meetings. There was brief discussion regarding social media and whether to enable comments on the Metuchen HRC Facebook page as currently they are not permitted. No changes will be made to the HRC Facebook page regarding comments at this time.

Once an email address is obtained, the email address along with a listing of 2018 HRC meeting dates will be listed on the HRC Facebook page.

Further it was agreed that Ms. Blankiet and Ms. Nelson would work together to create an Instagram account entitled either "Metuchen HRC" or "Metuchen Human Relations Commission." The content for the Facebook and Instagram accounts would be the same and linked.

Genesis Update Mr. Small provided an update that Genesis can implement short and long term solutions to the concerns raised related to unnecessary fields tied to citizenship status. Genesis has agreed to delete the information in the fields, however, the fields will still exist and remain until the next upgrade. There will be additional follow-up to ascertain time-lines for the next software upgrade.

Education Update There was an update regarding the curriculum around dating violence. Per state regulations, the NJ Core Curriculum includes dating violence in the curriculum for grades 7-12. It has been confirmed that it was formally written into the curriculum for grade 12 and is taught in earlier grades 9-12. Mr. Small will be follow up in regards to grades 7-9 and as to details on what is written in the curriculum.

HRC By-laws The By-laws are being drafted by the By-laws sub-committee. They will be circulated for input and member input.

Sub-committees Interest in participating in sub-committees should be indicated in HRC google spreadsheets to allow for finalization of membership of sub-committees.

New Business

Black History Celebration Ms. Blankiet, Ms. Johnson and Mr. Small will consider a potential HRC event for celebration of Black History month.

Upcoming Meeting/Important Dates

- Black History Month – Potential Metuchen HRC event
- Next meeting – March 6, 2018

Current Commission Members

1. Nicole Blankiet
2. Sophie Falkenstein
3. Richard Green, III
4. Leah Jiorle
5. Hazel-Anne Johnson
6. Linda Koskoski
7. Kevin McPeek
8. Asela Mourao
9. Aiden Nelson
10. Ozair Omarzai
11. Ben Small
12. Reena Wade
13. Ed Zelle