

Metuchen Human Relations Commission

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order: Ms. Jiorle called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Attendees: Nicole Blankiet, Richard Green, III., Leah Jiorle, Hazel-Anne Johnson, Linda Koskoski, Kevin McPeek, Asela Mourao, Ben Small, Reena Wade, and Ed Zellely.

Welcome to any members of the public/public comment: There were no comments from the public.

Review & Approval of February minutes: February minutes approved with the addition of Ben Small's attendance to be noted. Ed Zellely and Linda Koskoski abstained from the vote on approving minutes as they were not present at the February meeting.

Report from the Council Liaison: Councilperson Koskoski ensured all members present signed new oaths for terms commencing in 2018.

Old Business

Social media update Instagram, Facebook and the HRC section of the Metuchen website were discussed. HRC will set up an Instagram account and the content will mimic the Facebook page already in existence. Ms. Nelson and Ms. Blankiet to follow-up. In regards to the email functionality for the Commission, Ms. Jiorle will have the email address created. Councilwoman Koskoski and Ms. Jiorle will provide updates including the Mission Statement, By-laws and resources for the HRC microsite development.

Genesis Mr. McPeek confirmed fields related to citizenship within Genesis database will be removed as of March 7, 2018. Content within fields was previously deleted.

Sub-Committee membership Membership in subcommittees were finalized. Nicole Blankiet, Richard Green, III and Linda Koskoski will be on the Rapid Response/Social Media Committee. Asela Mourao, Kevin McPeek, Ed Zellely and Hazel-Anne Johnson will be on the Education Outreach Committee.

New Business

Immigration update Discussion related to current town policy related to immigration. Councilperson Koskoski will meet with the Chief of Police to better understand the current policy as well as request for a police officer join us at an upcoming meeting.

By-Laws The By-laws were distributed and first vote occurred. By-laws were approved as is with second vote to occur on April 3, 2018.

HRC May 2018 Event UN World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development will be the next public event hosted by the Metuchen Human Relations Commission. The sub-committee for the event consists of Nicole Blankiet, Richard Green, III, Asela Mourao and Reena Wade.

Anti-racism training Discussion took place as to the focus on anti-racism in the schools and/or training. Mr. Small directed the HRC's attention to the Metuchen schools website and district goals presentation. Ms. Jiorle will distribute the link from the presentation.

Upcoming Important Dates: Next meeting – April 3, 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