

**Metuchen Human Relations  
Commission Tuesday, December  
10<sup>th</sup> 2019 Minutes**

**Call Meeting to order at 7:38 PM:** Hazel-Anne Johnson & Nicole Blankiet

**In attendance:** Nicole Blankiet, Richard Green, III, Hazel-Anne Johnson,. Asela Mourao, Ozair Omarzai, Sheri-Rose Rubin, Ben Small, Jordan Valiquette, Reena Wade

**Welcome to any members of the public/public comment:** Hazel-Anne Johnson & Nicole Blankiet: one member of the public was present.

**Review & Approval of October & November minutes:** Each will be approved in Jan due to lack of quorum of Members present at each of those meetings- Asela

**Report from the Council Liaison:** Sheri-Rose Rubin - Borough Council Reorganization meeting is upcoming, the swearing in ceremony is Jan 1, 2020 at 3pm. Expiring terms and vacancies should be sent by Sunday, Dec 15. The Pet Ordinance passed and prevents stores from selling animals.

**Comments sent from the public:** Hazel-Anne Johnson - There was a question on social media about as to whether or not HRC Members and activities are funded with taxpayer money. Wendy Cohen, attended the Nov Lecture Series, enjoyed it and came to listen and participate in our meeting.

**Old Business and Next Steps:**

- High School Junior Student Liaison- Asela spoke to 1 potential Jr for next year (currently sophomore) and a Jr who may be interested. Sheri-Rose suggested her son, also a Jr, and would confirm his availability and interest.
- Reappointments of commission members and appointments for liaisons - need to review terms, gauge/ confirm interest in reappointments & notify the HRC.
- Wider dissemination of our upcoming events: Website meeting dates were updated.

**New Business**

- Collaboration and Joint Projects with Accessibility Committee - N/A
- Replacement for the Secretary position: will take quarterly turns in 2020. Richard will be Secretary Jan - March.
- 2020 Events- World Day is May 17th and we will look into The Plaza as our venue.
- Sub-Committee for Drag Queen and LGTBQ+ Q&A/ Educ Info Session : Richard, Jordan and Hazel-Anne
- BOE Update from Ben- starting in January 2020, a Student Advisory Board Rep from each school will attend 4 or 5 BOE meetings instead of there being a Student Rep Member; The Mental Health Initiative passed and work on implementation will begin

- Discussion lead by Ben as to other aspects of the HRC Mission that we can look to work on in 2020, specifically on drawing in diverse members of our community.

### **Upcoming Meeting/Important Dates**

- Martin Luther King Jr. Event at New Hope Baptist Church – Sunday, January 19
- Drag Queen Story Hour – To be rescheduled possibly to Feb.
- Next Meeting is Jan 14, 2020 (updated: moved to Jan 7, 2020 to coincide with 1st Tuesdays as per our Borough Calendar)

**Adjourned:** 9:13 pm

### **Current Commission Members**

1. Nicole Blankiet 2. Richard Green, III 3. Leah Jiorle 4. Hazel-Anne Johnson 5. Kevin McPeek 6. Asela Mourao 7. Ozair Omarzai 8. Sheri-Rose Rubin 9. Ben Small 10. Jordan Valiquette 11. Reena Wade 12. Ed Zelle