

## Metuchen Human Relations Commission

Tuesday, Oct 2, 2018

### Meeting Minutes

**Meeting called to order:** Ms. Jiorle called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM sharp. Attendees: Jordan Valiquette, Sophie Falkenstein, Asela Mourao, Rob Facchini, Ozair Omarzai, Ed Zelley, Richard Green III, Nicole Blankiet, Reena Wade, Leah Jiorle and Ben Small<sup>1</sup>.

**The June 2018 Meeting Minutes were approved.** There were no meeting minutes from September 2018 as the HRC did not have a quorum to meet.

**There were no comments from the public nor a Council Liaison Report.**

#### Old Business

Diversity Training Workshop – Briefly discussed logistics for a 2019 offering; tabled topic for next meeting.

#### New Business

New Members Ms. Jiorle introduced Rob Facchini, Human Relations Commission intern for 2018-2019 and Jordan Valiquette, incoming Metuchen High School Junior HRC member.

October Country Fair – October 6, 2018. Discussion about details for event. Specifically discussed were the final logistics, booth set up, coverage for time slots, supplies, artwork, and material transport among other things. Linda Vonderschmidt-la stella created a mural for participants to color (HRC to provide markers). Other activities include a focus on Mental Health Awareness Day (October 10<sup>th</sup>) with materials provided by NAMI, a focus on Domestic Violence Awareness month with a collection for Women Aware, and a Human Rights wheel for education and awareness.

Subcommittees for 2019 HRC Events There was discussion on recurring HRC participation in events and creating subcommittees to increase efficiency in planning for events. Current planned events and sub-committees are as follows:

- December 2018- Human Rights Day
  - Subcommittee: Leah Jiorle, Asela Mourao, Nicole Blankiet and Ben Small
- February 2019 - Black History Month
  - Subcommittee: Ozair Omarzai, Hazel-Anne Johnson, Richard Green
- May 2019 – World Day for Cultural Diversity & Dialogue, Tuesday, May 21, 2019
  - Subcommittee: Ozair Omarzai, Reena Wade and Leah Jiorle
- October 2019 - Metuchen Country Fair Booth
  - Subcommittee: Nicole Blankiet, Asela Mourao, Ben Small and Reena Wade

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<sup>1</sup> Participated by telephone.

Education Update – Mr. McPeek provided an update as to a change in Harassment Intimidation & Bullying (“HIB”) matters. Specifically, the schools are allowed to consider a matter as a HIB matter prior to the investigation being complete whereas before the matter had to be fully investigated. In a related topic, the middle school is offering a Digital Citizenship class where online behavior is discussed.

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

- Next meeting – November 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. Jordan Valliquette
  10. Ozair Omarzai
  11. Ben Small
  12. Reena Wade
  13. Ed Zelle
- Intern: Rob Facchini