

Metuchen Human Relations Commission

Tuesday, May 2, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Ms. Jiorle Called the Meeting to Order at 7:30 PM sharp.

Attendees: Leah Jiorle, Asela Mourau, Sophie Falkenstein, Linda Koskoski, Kevin McPeek, Ozair Omarzai, Ed Zelle, Richard Green, III, Ben Small, Reena Wade and Mayor Jonathon Busch

The March¹ and April 2018 Meeting Minutes were approved.

Council Liaison Report:

Councilperson Koskoski advised she discussed the Metuchen World Day event at Metuchen Borough Council meeting. She also discussed the Polaris project which focused on addressing human trafficking in the U.S. She advised that human trafficking is an issue that can happen anywhere in the U.S. Lastly, the Commission learned that the Borough has hired a grant writer and will review relevant grant options for the town.

Ms. Wade reported there were no comments from the public.

Old Business

Technology/Communications Update

Ms. Jiorle will contact Susan Jackson in regards to updates and content for the web page. The content will include Commission member updates with terms, by-Laws, agendas and minutes.

Metuchen World Day

The Metuchen HRC will recognize the UN World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, officially on May 21, 2018, on Sunday, May 20, 2018 by holding a Metuchen World Day event at the Old Franklin Schoolhouse from 12 pm – 3 pm. The sub-committee for the event updated the Commission as to the schedule of events, performances, marketing efforts and food donations. Mr. Small will announce the event at the Board of Education meeting and Mr. McPeek will also advertise through Edgar Middle School. Ms. Falkenstein advised that the National Honor Society can provide volunteers for the events.

New Business

LGBTQ Pride Month

Mayor Busch discussed the options for recognition for LGBTQ Pride month (June 2018) as proposed by Richard Green, III. The decision was for the Borough to recognize Pride Month through a Proclamation to be announced at the June 4, Metuchen Borough Council Meeting.

¹ Mr. McPeek and Father Zelle abstained from the vote to approve the March minutes as they were not present at that meeting.

Other Upcoming Events

There was a brief discussion of additional future MHRC events including a picnic for the International Day of Friendship (July 30, 2018) and a MHRC booth at the Metuchen Country Fair (October 2018) where there would be recognition of many things including the International Day of the Girl.

MHRC Report to Council

In June, an annual report is required once annually and Ms. Jiorle will begin work on the content.

Other Business

There was a brief discussion on security at the Metuchen Schools. Mr. McPeek and Mr. Small advised there are monthly inspections of the schools, and that the school board is taking a systematic approach to look at safety. They will advise as to any additional information or updates.

Discussion regarding diversity and bias training recommendations tabled for May meeting.

Upcoming Meeting/Important Dates

- Next meeting – June 5, 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