

Metuchen Human Relations Commission

Tuesday, October 8th 2019

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM: Hazel-Anne Johnson

In Attendance: Hazel-Anne Johnson, Richard Green, III, Asela Mourao, Kevin McPeek, Ozair Omarzai, Jordan Valiquette, Reena Wade, Fa Ed Zellely

Welcome to any members of the public/public comment: Hazel-Anne Johnson -none

Review & Approval of September minutes: Asela Mourao- approved

Report from the Council Liaison: Sheri-Rose Rubin - Not Present but November Book Series Lecture was advertised at the Borough Council Meeting

Comments sent from the public: Hazel-Anne Johnson- None

Old Business and Next Steps:

- BOE Updates: Kevin McPeek reported that the BOE had organized a presentation regarding the Mental Health Initiative that will be on the ballot Nov 5 and there was another one coming up.
- Book Club/Speaker Series update
 - Ethel Brooks, Rutgers Professor & Metuchen resident to speak at November 13th book club event on “Rising Out of Hatred” at 7pm at the MPL.
 - Hazel-Anne suggested “On Being” Podcast with Krista Tippett as preparation for the reading and discussion
 - Father Zellely will share a flyer with his Congregation
- Nicole: Grant Speaker Update – Discussion on dates & choice of speaker- N/A
- 2019 Diversity & Inclusion Training Workshop Recap
 - Hazel-Anne said she had great feedback, was a success and would be happy to coordinate one with the MDA in the future in order to grab non-Chamber businesses
- Country Fair Recap
 - Sheri-Rose, Hazel-Anne, Asela, Jordan, and Ben were able to share booth time with the Accessibility Commission with materials to share with the public.

New Business

- Discussion regarding having a wider dissemination of our upcoming events aside from FB such as email & FB message requests for a listserv. Possibly advertise in the Library, Cai’s Cafe or other bulletins. Also mentioned updating and integrating on Burbio App. A couple of members who have used it, don’t find it convenient, however.
- Welcome to High School Junior Student Liaison – John Sweatman- N/A
- Report from Ed on Neve Shalom event – “World Café: A Community Conversation” Discussion around the recent immigrant experience will occur at the next meeting in November
- Metuchen Peace Mural Project – potential collaboration with Metuchen Arts Council, the MDA or both- N/A
- Winter Parade (November) – Again, whoever is available will attend and will be determined at the Nov meeting
- Human Rights Day (December) including Grant Speaker – Determined that it may be too late for a Guest Speaker but will try to maintain a similar format as in the past
- Father Zellely – Lead (January 2020) – Update on New Hope Baptist MLK event in Metuchen for MLK Day- The event will be on January 19, 2020 at 3pm at the New Hope Baptist Church
- Metuchen Police Department Statistics (<http://force.nj.com/database/pd-dept/metuchen-middlesex>)
- Due to many conflicts and short notice, the 2nd Drag Queen Story Hour will be rescheduled to March of 2020

Upcoming Meeting/Important Dates

- Book Club Speaker Series – November 13th, 2019
- Winter Parade – Sunday, December 1st, 2019
- Drag Queen Story Hour – To be rescheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 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