

# Metuchen Human Relations Commission

Tuesday, August 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes

**Call To Order:** 7:36 PM

**Attendance:**

|   |                    |   |                 |   |                   |
|---|--------------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------------|
| ✓ | Nicole Blankiet    | ✓ | Robin Brown     | ✓ | Richard Green III |
| ✓ | Hazel-Anne Johnson | ✓ | Lorraine LeSter | ✓ | Asela Mourao      |
|   | Ozair Omarzai      |   | Max Rubin       |   | Sheri-Rose Rubin  |
| ✓ | Ben Small          | ✓ | Reena Wade      |   | Ed Zolley         |

**Present member(s) of the public:** Robert Diken

**Review & Approval of Minutes:**

July Minutes - Approved by acclamation

**Council Liaison Report:** No Report

**Public Comments:** No comments

**Old Business:**

Continuing Ally Conversation Series

Focus on marginalized communities as well as intersectionality. Conversations will be open ended, continuing and evolving as needed. Upcoming Conversation Series:

- **Asian-American Neighbors**  
Subcommittee: Reena Wade (lead), Richard Green, Michelle Tang, Amanda Lin  
Virtual event taking place on September 9 at 7:00pm
- **Disabled Neighbors:** Subcommittee leads are Sheri-Rose Rubin and Robin Brown. Will partner with the Accessibility Committee
- **Latinx Neighbors:** Subcommittee in development

**New Business:**

Windows of Understanding Project

This is a joint venture between Metuchen HRC and Metuchen Arts Council. Subcommittee Lead: Nicole Blankiet. The subcommittee will identify social services agencies serving Metuchen and surrounding communities that align with the Windows of Understanding themes. Themes and organization recommendations are:

- Food Insecurity - First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen Food Pantry
- Public Health - Metuchen First Aid Squad
- Trauma - Mental Health Association in New Jersey / Women Aware
- Climate Change - Edison Wetlands Association
- Youth Engagement - Kiddie Keep Well Camp

Subcommittee will facilitate weekly or bi-weekly “Community Discussions” with the Human Relations Commission on topics depicted or inspired by the individual pieces of art, including discussions with the artists about their process.

Board of Education Report: Ben Small

This is Ben’s final meeting as a member of the Metuchen Board of Education. The commission would like to thank Ben for his hard work and dedication over his tenure.

**Upcoming Meeting/Important Dates**

How To Be A Better Ally To Our Asian Neighbors September 9 @ 7 PM on Zoom

**2020 Metuchen HRC Meeting Schedule**

September 1 | October 6 | November 3 | December 1

**Adjourned:** 9:28 PM