

Metuchen Human Relations Commission

Tuesday, January 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Call To Order: 7:37 PM by Hazel-Anne Johnson

Attendance:

✓	Nicole Blankiet	✓	Robin Brown	✓	Richard Green III
	Leah Jiorle	✓	Hazel-Anne Johnson	✓	Kevin McPeek
✓	Asela Mourao	✓	Ozair Omarzai		Max Rubin
✓	Sheri-Rose Rubin		Ben Small		Jordan Valiquette
✓	Reena Wade	✓	Ed Zelle		

One member of the public present

Public Comments: None

Review & Approval of October & November minutes:

Each will be approved at next meeting due to lack of quorum of Members present at each of those meetings

Council Liaison Report:

Sheri-Rose Rubin: Mayor Busch and Council-members Koskoski, Rasmussen, and Hirsch sworn into respective offices on January 1. Reviewed highlights of Mayor's address including the announcement of Director of Special Projects position in Borough government. Re-appointments signed.

Old Business:

- Update website to reflect correct meeting dates & terms for members

New Business

HRC Meeting Time Change

Meetings will change back to the FIRST Tuesday of each month instead of the SECOND Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on February 4, 2020.

Collaboration of Joint Projects with Accessibility Committee

Robin Brown suggested a book club series with books that have overlapping themes for MHRC and Accessibility Commission. Title for consideration: The Autobiography of Mrs Tom Thumb. Robin agreed to be the facilitator for upcoming book club event. Tentative date: March 29 at 2:30pm in Metuchen Library

Board Of Education Update

Kevin McPeek: Edgar Middle School is looking to pilot student led parent-teacher conferences for fifth grade students. Students will run and facilitate the conference and communicate to their parents on their progress. Teachers will greet the students and families but students will directly interact with parents. The goal is to give students ownership of their responsibilities, progress, and future goals, as well as improving the students' interpersonal skills.

Update on New Hope Baptist MLK Event for MLK Day

Ed Zelle: Confirmed date and time - January 19 at 3:30pm. Event is not only a religious service and honor of Dr. King but also a scholarship presentation and recognition of local elected officials. Metuchen HRC will help promote event on social media.

Metuchen World Day

Subcommittee established with Reena Wade as lead and looking to change venue from Old Franklin School House to the Metuchen Town Plaza.

Response to US Relations With Iran

Metuchen HRC would like to be prepared in the event a public rally/response is needed for the unfolding US/Iran relations. Looking to partner with "It Takes A Borough" local organization.

Drag Queen Story Hour

Update will be provided at next meeting

Hazel-Anne spoke of an incident involving the police called on her and a friend while sitting in a vehicle. She stressed the need to find a way to improve relations between residents. There is a need to find ways to address the demographic shift in Metuchen to improve relations. MHRC is charged with how best to help residents look at their own biases. Sheri-Rose suggested a "train the trainer" think group where knowledge can be taught to one group and then have them pass that along to other groups.

Subcommittee: Hazel-Anne, Reena, Nicole, Robin, and Sheri-Rose.

Upcoming Meeting/Important Dates

- Martin Luther King Jr. Event at New Hope Baptist Church – Sunday, January 19, 3:30pm
- Drag Queen Story Hour – Saturday, February 29
- Accessibility Book Club - Saturday, March 29, 2:30pm, Metuchen Library

2020 Metuchen HRC Meeting Schedule

February 4 | March 3 | April 7 | May 5 | June 2 | July 7 | August 4 | September 1 | October 6 | November 3 | December 1

Adjourned: 8:50pm