

Metuchen Human Relations Commission

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Call To Order: 7:36

Attendance of Commission Members & Liasons

✓	Robin Brown	✓	Shannan Gonzalez		Richard Green III
✓	Hazel-Anne Johnson-Marcus		Lorraine LeSter	✓	Amanda Lin
✓	Asela Mourao		Ozair Omarzai	✓	Andrea Orlando
✓	Edward Porowski		Max Rubin	✓	Sheri-Rose Rubin
✓	Michelle Tang	✓	Nadia Tariq	✓	Reena Wade
✓	Ed Zelle				

Review & Approval of April minutes: April minutes - Approved by all

Report from the Council Liaison: Sheri-Rose Rubin

- Reminder: Accessible housing event will take place on Wednesday 5/5 at 7:30.
- The Metuchen pool is opening for the summer. Registration is open now. There will be Covid restrictions in place which can change at any time.
- Sheri-Rose will reach out about a new committee that will determine whether Metuchen committees are representative of our residents. More information to follow.
- Primary Election is in June- Ballots will start arriving soon.
- Student members: The HRC has Junior and Senior members. There will be a need for a new junior member as the school year ends and Max Rubin moves onto college.

Comments sent from the public: Hazel-Anne Johnson-Marcus

- Email from community member: A resident reached out with interest in creating awareness around gender identity and inclusivity. This may be an important topic for a future community conversation (June 30th). The resident is invited to participate in planning the event. Committee members interested in helping: Shannan, Amanda, Michelle, and Nadia.

Old Business:

- 2021 Event Planning
 - World Day - Asela communicated that the google form went out to all parents requesting them to share an aspect of their culture. There have been no submissions so far. Andrea will help design a social media friendly flyer via Canva to draw attention to the form. We are in need of more performers. Mignolo has offered their space. If anyone knows of any other performers that would be interested in performing, let the World Day subcommittee know. Reena will reach out to some performers.

New Business

- 2021 Event Planning
 - World Day - May 21
 - Ongoing Ally Conversations - LGBTQ+ on June 30th - Hazel-Anne will email the subcommittee to begin planning.
 - Indigenous Peoples Day - Hazel-Anne will work with Councilwoman Rubin & Mayor Busch to invite Rev. Dr. Norwood to Metuchen for a community event.
 - Human Rights Day - December - Reena will lead the subcommittee for this.

Social Media Strategy

Hazel-Anne shared a doc where we can keep all of our contact information and social media handles for easy access. All HRC members should fill it out, especially the question about whether you feel comfortable being tagged in HRC posts.

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The Borough website has been updated with all members' information. There is an outside company that the Borough works with that can possibly help us update the HRC site. THE HRC will stick to using Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

This month is Jewish American Heritage Month as well as AAPI awareness month. It is important to think about whose voices we are amplifying when sharing resources. It should be the voices of the people who's stories we are trying to share. Amanda and Reena are planning ways to create something for AAPI Heritage Month.

Hazel-Anne proposed having Richard create a standard flyer for HRC announcements and blasts. This way everyone can use the template for any event or topic they want to create awareness around HRC events and other initiatives.

Flyers are needed for the following events:

- World Day
- AAPI Heritage Month
- Gender Identity conversation

BOE updates

Full time in-person school is available to all at Campbell and Edgar from May 3, and remains available to the High School students. Kindergarten students were able to return five days a week on April 26. All contingent on the NJ CALI report being yellow/moderate.

Other New Business

- AAPI Heritage Month: Amanda and Reena discussed an idea to host a watch party for Patsy Mink Ahead of the Majority and facilitate a discussion around it for AAPI Heritage Month - May 19th at 7:00 pm. Link to the documentary: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/patsymink>
- Juneteenth: June 19th - HRC will amplify voices of Black Americans to bring awareness around it. Speak Up NJ will be holding events around policies. Principal Porowski will be putting information on Twitter about Juneteenth that the HRC may wish to use as well.
- June 30th - LGBTQ+ Conversation - Shannon, Nadia, Michelle, and Hazel-Anne will be on the subcommittee for planning a conversation around issues that affect the LGBTQ+ community as well as gender identity.
- Shannan will look through the calendar and pull out the major holidays and topics the HRC may want to recognize or hold events for. HRC should start thinking about events that need to be planned in the fall.

Upcoming Meeting/Important Dates

- May 19 @ 7:00 pm - Watch Party for AAPI Heritage Month
- May 21: World Day
- June 19th: Juneteenth
- June 30: LGBTQ+

2021 Metuchen HRC Meeting Schedule

Jun. 1 | Jul. 6 | Aug. 3 | Sep. 7 | Oct. 5 | Nov. 2 | Dec. 7

Adjourned: 8:51