

Metuchen Human Relations Commission
 Tuesday, February 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Call To Order: 7:34 pm

Attendance of Commission Members & Liasons

✓	1. Joel Branch (Council Liaison)		2. Khalila Cruz (Member)	✓	3. Shannan Gonzalez (Member)
✓	4. Rebecca Greenbaum (Member)	✓	5. Laura Hermans (Member)	✓	6. Jacqueline Ho (Member as of 1/24)
✓	7. Dylan Jaques (HS Junior Liaison)	✓	8. Hazel-Anne Johnson-Marcus (Chair & BOE Liaison)	✓	9. Abdullah Khan (Member)
	10. Amanda Lin (Member)	✓	11. Joanne Cruz Lora (Member)	✓	12. Andrea Orlando (Member)
✓	13. Edward Porowski (School District Liaison)	✓	14. Michelle Tang (HS Senior Liaison)	✓	15. Nadia Tariq (Secretary)
✓	16. Bobbie Theivakumaran (MDA Liaison)	✓	17. Edmund Zelly (MEAICA Liaison)	✓	18. Audra Sbarra (Accessibility Commission Liaison)

Welcome to any members of the public/public comment: Hazel-Anne Johnson-Marcus

- Welcome to our new Accessibility Commission Liaison, Audra Sbarra

Review & Approval of December & January minutes: Laura Hermans - December and January minutes were approved by all in attendance

Old Business:

- Partnership with Temple Emanu-El for The Trial of Adolf Eichmann Documentary screening & discussion, **Tuesday, February 15, 2022 @ 7:30 pm, at Temple Emanu-El & on Zoom.**
 - About 40 people registered to be in person and approximately 200 registered to join online. HRC members are encouraged to attend the event.
- Windows of Understanding partnership with Metuchen Arts Council.
 - **WOU Community Conversation on Thursday, March 10, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.**
 - Partnership with Metuchen Arts Council, Artists, Community Organizations, and neighboring Arts organizations. Artists will share art representing 4 social injustice issues: Economic Justice, Climate Change, Public Health and Protest to Policy. Attendees will hear about the Artists about the inspiration for their art and learn more about the organizations supporting these issues.
 - **Michelle Tang** will join **Hazel-Anne, Laura** and **Nadia** in co-hosting the event.
 - HRC members are encouraged to attend the virtual event.
- **2022 Event Planning**
 - **Black History Month-February:** BHM Puzzle in partnership with MDA & social media posts.
 - **Women's History Month-March:** Social media posts
 - **Autism Awareness Month-April:** **Audra** and **Michelle** will reach out to resources. **Laura** will help as well.
 - **AAPI Heritage Month-May:** Social media posts
 - **Jewish-American Heritage Month-May:** Social media posts

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- **UN World Day**-May 21: **Abdullah** (we will establish this subcommittee in March)
- **Pride Month**-June: **Laura, Dylan, Joanne**, and possibly **Shannan**.
- **Juneteenth**-June 19: Will be celebrated in Metuchen on Sat. June 18th, likely at the Plaza: **Shannan**
- **Hispanic Heritage Month**-Sept 15-Oct 15: **Joanne & Andrea**. Likely held at the Plaza.
- **Thomas Mundy Peterson Day of Democracy**: Possible October 8th (the Saturday prior to the close of voter registration). Possibly set up tables at downtown stores and the Farmer's Market for voter registration. **Joel, Shannan** and **Andrea**. **Bobbie** offered to provide training on voter registration.
- **Indigenous Peoples Day**-Oct 10: **Hazel-Anne** or **Joel** will check with Mayor Busch re: invitation to Rev. Dr. Norwood to the Borough.
- **Human Rights Day**-Dec 10: Subcommittee to be established later in 2022.
- **Community Conversation Topics:**
 - Caregiving for aging parents, ill spouses or loved ones with disabilities who remain at home - **Audra** and **Andrea** will form a subcommittee. Possibly in November for National Caregiver month.
 - *Breaking the Boys will be Boys Mindset*: a workshop for parents to address gender fueled intimidation and micro-aggressions. Topic was suggested by **Bobbie**
 - Middlesex County Center for Empowerment - **Andrea** will reach out.
 - Girl Scout Training called PREPARE may be helpful - **Rebecca** will research this option.
 - Empowerment Club, Equity Club and GSA at MHS - **Dylan** will reach out.
 - Zine - Magazine published by the Empowerment group at MHS. **Dylan** will look into reaching out to them for involvement.
 - **Ed P.** will also look into collaborations with other organizations at school.
 - Disrespect of Asian students/residents and their names
 - Social Media campaign / workshop - **Bobbie** and **Michelle**
 - Possibly a campaign of videos.
 - May collaborate with HS Student Equity Committee.
- **2023 Event Planning** - develop a timeline for planning all events in the future
- **Social Media Posts** - All members, please update the shared Google Doc with your social media handles if you consent to HRC tagging you on social media. Willing members, please share HRC events widely on social media to extend our audience reach.

New Business

- **Liaison Reports**: Liaisons reported during the broader conversations.
- **Other New Business**
 - Calendar invitations will be sent for future meetings.

2022 Meeting Dates:

March 1 | April 5 | May 3 | June 7 | July 5 | Aug. 2 | Sept. 6 | Oct. 4 | Nov. 1 | Dec. 6

Adjourned: 8:50 pm