

## Metuchen Human Relations Commission

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

### Metuchen Borough Hall

Start Time: 7:32pm

✓	1. Suneet Bhatt (Member)		2. Joel Branch (Council Liaison)	✓	3. Joanne Cruz (Member)
✓	4. Khalila Cruz (Member)	✓	5. Wayne Karalevich (MPD Liaison)	✓	6. Laura Hermans (Secretary)
	7. Jacqueline Ho (Member)	✓	8. Dylan Jaques (HS Senior Liaison)	✓	9. Hazel-Anne Johnson-Marcus (Chair & BOE Liaison)
✓	10. Amanda Lin (Member)	✓	11. Tara Matise (Member)	✓	12. Andrea Orlando (Member)
✓	13. Edward Porowski (School District Liaison)	✓	14. Emma Staal (HS Junior Liaison)	✓	15. Nadia Tariq (Vice Chair)
	16. Bobbie Theivakumaran (MDA Liaison)		17. Bhavi Vyas (Member)		18. Edmund Zelle (MEAIICA Liaison)

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

#### Name and Comment

- Michael
- Shannan
- Shailen
  - Make a public document with information from Demystifying Gender Expression and Identity presentation.
- Mo
- Sylvia
  - Local resources for gender affirming care and resources
  - Atlantic Health Systems:  
<https://findmyamgdoctor.atlantichealth.org/provider/Michael+Galabi/2546118?sort=networks%2Crelevance&ga=2.261834373.928369737.1687707459-198738421.1687707459>
  - Robert Wood Johnson:  
[https://www.rwjbh.org/landing-pages/proud-siperstein-gender-center-nj/?utm\\_source=goodway&utm\\_campaign=proud&utm\\_medium=ppc&utm\\_term=&utm\\_content=&gad=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwy9-kBhCHARISAHpBjHhxGrdxyTnRM42PFoZBLIQIIRrlbFX013g\\_GCr5BEIXe2o\\_hIG\\_jlaAqc\\_aEALw\\_wcB](https://www.rwjbh.org/landing-pages/proud-siperstein-gender-center-nj/?utm_source=goodway&utm_campaign=proud&utm_medium=ppc&utm_term=&utm_content=&gad=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwy9-kBhCHARISAHpBjHhxGrdxyTnRM42PFoZBLIQIIRrlbFX013g_GCr5BEIXe2o_hIG_jlaAqc_aEALw_wcB)
- Michelle
- Marina
- Radhika & Prabha
  - They are planning a community event to celebrate South Asian Heritage Month (July-August). They are expecting a group of

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about 150 attendees. Tentative event date Friday, July 21, 6-8pm. They have submitted a request for Tommy's Pond and are also considering MLK park or other locations in Metuchen. Metuchen Borough Clerk, Deborah Zupan and Metuchen Recreation Department Director, Rick Perrine are potential contact people for permission to hold events in the Metuchen Downtown Plaza. This event will potentially feature a dance program and food donated by restaurants. MHRC supports this event and can promote it via our social media channels.

#### **Review & Approval of May 2023 minutes:**

- May 2023 Meeting Attendance: Suneet, Joel, Joanne, Khalila, Laura, Dylan, Hazel-Anne, Amanda, Ed P., Emma, Nadia
  - Approved

#### **Old Business:**

- Land Acknowledgement Statement
  - Subcommittee currently working on a preliminary Google document.
- Wellness & Mindfulness Event - Saturday, September 9th @ MLK park 3:00-5:00 pm
  - Destigmatize mental health and wellness
  - Seed library, therapist, reiki
- Thank you to all who volunteered at the Downtown Pride event!
- Juneteenth Events
  - June 16 - Suite Metuchen - "Hip-hop @ 50"
    - 50 years of hip-hop panel discussion begins at 7pm, Karaoke to follow.
  - June 17 - Freedom Celebration - "Family Reunion"
    - Step dancers, drum lines, double dutch group, spoken word
- Councilperson Jason Delia provided HRC with a list of action steps for proposing a Rainbow crosswalk in Metuchen.
  - Mo, Tara, Joanne, Sylvia, Emma and Shailen will participate in this subcommittee.

#### **New Business:**

- Cantor Simkin will be our new MEAICA liaison as Fr. Zelle heads off into retirement.
- Next Month's Agenda & Other New Business

#### **Liaison Reports:**

##### *Ed Porowski (School District Liaison)*

- School district is focusing on end of year activities as the school year is winding down.

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*Hazel-Anne Johnson-Marcus (Board of Education Liaison)*

- The board approved a construction manager for the referendum plans. At the May 23rd meeting, Student board member representative, Ben Solasky, made powerful remarks about freedom and quoted Amanda Gorman's inauguration poem, which was just banned in Florida. Ben is grateful to our district for supporting inclusive texts in our Metuchen schools.
- Mental Health support contracts were approved.

#### **Upcoming Activities:**

- Pride Month (June)
- Juneteenth Hip Hop at 50 Panel Discussion & Karaoke (June 16)
- Juneteenth Freedom Celebration (June 17)
- Wellness Event (September 9)
- Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15)

#### **2023 Meeting Dates:**

**July 11 | September 5 | October 3 | November 7 | December 5**

End Time: 8:45pm