

Metuchen Human Relations Commission

Tuesday, April 9th 2019

Minutes

Call Meeting to order at 7:36 PM sharp: Hazel-Anne Johnson & Nicole Blankiet

Attendees: Jordan Valliquette, Ben Small, Father Ed Zelle, Richard Green, III, Reena Wade, Hazel-Anne Johnson, Nicole Blankiet, Asela Mourao and Rob Facchini.

Review and accept March Minutes

Welcome to any members of the public/public comment: Hazel-Anne Johnson & Nicole Blankiet- There were none

Report from the Council Liaison: Sheri-Rose Rubin via email: Borough Council

Comments sent from the public: Hazel-Anne Johnson- None

Old Business and Next Steps:

- 2019 Diversity & Inclusion Training Workshop update.
 - Hazel-Anne: Schedule, Training, Survey - no surveys have been filled, Sheri-Rose & Hazel-Anne will move to design a workshop tailored to what they think is pertinent and relevant to the business community including terminology. They will get together in May to design it.
 - Nicole Update regarding Diversity Training survey to BBB / Le Tip- Has not been able to share at any meetings this past month & share survey
 - Richard Update: Sticker Design- not complete at the time of the meeting but one will be forthcoming
- HRC Instagram Account- Jordan and Nicole will work on linking and actualizing the accounts, update FB and Hazel-Anne will create a Twitter account.
- Book Club/Speaker Series
 - Wed April 10 7:30-9pm. Setting up at 7pm.
 - Jordan will bring some HS students to help in exchange for Community Service Hours.
 - August 7th date may have to change due to a Library conflict.
 - Ben has a suggestion for a speaker and will reach out to see if the speaker is available or interested.
- Metuchen World Day – Update HRC Attendees / Schedule, Microphone, Food, Activities:

Reena- Committee met, reaching out to about 11 restaurants, performances, literature, etc. similar to last year. Still need to reach out to some more performers. 11-2pm

 - Need help with setup before 11. Jordan will look for more Jrs that need Community Service Hours. Need help with clean-up after 2 because there is another event at 3.
 - Need to finalize a flyer to distribute

- Father Zellely will reach out to a contact; Asela will reach out to last year's Hungarian dancers; Ben will reach out to a BagPiper
- Leah got confirmations for food from Olive Press, BMG
- Asela got confirmation from Lola's and AwesomeYo's
- Sub-committee will meet again on Tues April 16
- Ordinance to add additional Commission members Update: Sheri-Rose
- Grant Speaker Update: Sheri-Rose shared the PSP Catalog of Speakers and topics for the HRC to select from. Grant application is on a rolling basis.
- BOE Updates and Meeting Adjustments: Ben Small will update with any relevant info from BOE; BOE is interested in investing in on-site mental health services & support

New Business

- Yoga at the Plaza June 23rd celebration to honor International Yoga Day (UN) Organizers would like HRC to write something up about its significance, or yoga on the HR/UN perspective: Reena will draft and work with Asela on it
- Country Fair (October) – Lead & Sub committee : Nicole, Lead; Ben, Reena, Leah, with help from everyone
- Winter Parade (November) – Lead & Sub committee: Father Zellely, Lead
- Human Rights Day (December) including Grant Speaker – Lead & Sub committee:
- 2020 MLK Event- Father Zellely, Lead; will update us on New Hope Baptist Church's MLK Celebration so that the HRC may attend and help to promote

Upcoming Meeting/Important Dates

- First Book Club Speakers Series Event: Wednesday April 10th
- Next HRC meeting – Tuesday, May 14, 2019
- May 1st, Wed, 7pm Holocaust Memorial Service at Neve Shalom
- Annual Interfaith Ramadan Dinner, May 22 at 6pm at Royal Palace in Edison
- On-going Interfaith Prayer Meetings on Fridays to Support Synagogues
- Metuchen World Day – May 19th, 2019
- Yoga at the Plaza June 23rd, 2019
- Book Club Speaker Series – August 7th and November 13th, 2019

Current Commission Members

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| 1. Nicole Blankiet | 13. Ed Zellely |
| 2. Sophie Falkenstein | 14. *Intern: Rob Facchini |
| 3. Richard Green, III | |
| 4. Leah Jiorle | |
| 5. Hazel-Anne Johnson | |
| 6. Sheri-Rose Rubin | |
| 7. Kevin McPeek | |
| 8. Asela Mourao | |
| 9. Jordan Valiquette | |
| 10. Ozair Omarzai | |
| 11. Ben Small | |
| 12. Reena Wade | |