

**Metuchen Human Relations
Commission**
Tuesday, May 14th 2019 **Minutes**

Call Meeting to order at 7:30 PM sharp: Hazel-Anne Johnson & Nicole Blankiet

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

Welcome to any members of the public/public comment: Hazel-Anne Johnson & Nicole Blankiet

Review & Approval of April minutes: Asela Mourao - approved

Report from the Council Liaison: none due to Liaison's absence but World Day was advertised at the May 13 Borough Council Meeting

Comments sent from the public: Hazel-Anne Johnson - A message was received concerning the Parking ticket officer wearing a Blue Lives Matter t-shirt on the job and there was concern that it may be perceived as a controversial message for "on the job". There was discussion as to if it were best to have the Borough Council Liaison bring it to the Police Chief's attention on behalf of the HRC.

Old Business and Next Steps:

- BOE Updates: Ben Small - With Title 4 funds, 15 students were divided into 3 design teams to turn-key mindfulness and healthy social media & conducted workshops to EMS students and parents; school internships with town businesses is increasing; BOE is going to expand mental health services as part of its next budget which will be up for next public vote; 4th grade did a unit on immigration; 1st grade participated in world culture curriculum

- 2019 Diversity & Inclusion Training Workshop update.
 - Hazel-Anne: TBD as feedback was virtually none.
 - Nicole: D&I Needs assessment survey distribution to BBB / LeTip was postponed.
 - Richard Update: Sticker Design was completed.
 - There was discussion regarding how to proceed and resulted in reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce Board Member, Gary Wade, as requesting that they consider including the workshop as part of their meetings as a starting point.

- HRC Website update: Google form, photos, resources, Instagram, borough website

(share our events e.g., World Day & provide feedback to borough administrator). Twitter?

- Book Club/Speaker Series update - Leah

 - Next meeting – August 7th, 2019? > Ethel Brooks, Rutgers Professor & Metuchen resident to speak at November 13th book club event.

 - Ben Small- November- Ethel Brooks, speaker - “Color of Law”

- Metuchen World Day – Reena Updated with WD Committee Members the list of attendees, schedule, microphone, food/ business donations, activities and coordination of set-up, pick-up and clean-up

- Grant Speaker Discussion

Ben Small- Contacted a bagpiper and is waiting on confirmation

New Business

- Yoga at the Plaza on 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

- Country Fair (October) – Lead & Sub committee Winter Parade (November) – Lead & Sub committee

- Human Rights Day (December) including Grant Speaker – Lead & Sub committee

- Father Zellely – Lead (January 2020) – Update New Hope Baptist MLK event in Metuchen for MLK Day.

Upcoming Meeting/Important Dates

- Metuchen World Day – May 19^t 2019

- Interfaith Ramadan Dinner – May 22nd, 2019

- Yoga at the Plaza June 23rd, 2019

- Book Club Speaker Series – August 7th and November 13th, 2019

Current Commission Members

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