

Metuchen Human Relations Commission

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Ms. Jiorle Called the Meeting to Order at 7:30 pm.

Attendees: Nicole Blankiet, Leah Jiorle, Asela Mourau, Sophie Falkenstein, Richard Green, III, Hazel-Anne Johnson, Aiden Nelson, Ozair Omarzai, Reena Wade and Ed Zelley.

The May 2018 Meeting Minutes were approved¹.

There were no comments from the public nor a Council Liaison Report.

Old Business

Technology/Communications Update – Approved minutes and agendas were forwarded by Ms. Wade for posting on the town website. See

<http://www.metuchennj.org/metnj/GOVERNMENT/Boards%2C%20Commissions%2C%20Committees/Human%20Relations%20Commission/Agendas%20%26%20Minutes/>

New Business

LGBTQ Pride Month in Metuchen- Ms. Jiorle recapped the Proclamation entered by Mayor Busch in honor of the month. The HRC discussed the possibility of planning a satellite event around LGBTQ month next year and the potential partnering with another organization such as the Pride Center of NJ or the Hudson Pride Center.

Metuchen Country Fair – Metuchen HRC will have a booth at the town event on Saturday October 6, 2018. The theme of the 2018 fair is Let There be Art. A sub-committee was formed to attend to booth development and content which may include topics such as October's recognition of Domestic Violence Month, International Day of the Girl (October 11), and World Mental Health Day (October 10). The goal will be to carry through the theme of the fair, while bringing awareness to the existence and mission of the HRC. The Commission further discussed content for the booth including an activity with relevant trivia questions, the HRC Mission statement, the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, among fact sheets with action items community members can take to bring awareness to those affected by discrimination or other types of human rights infringement. Logistics, location and advertising the event were also discussed.

Diversity and Bias Training – The HRC briefly discussed what type/s of training may be needed and what type of recommendations may be considered to make to the Mayor and/or Borough Council. The conversation was tabled and will be addressed at the next meeting.

¹ Hazel-Anne Johnson and Aiden Nelson abstained from the vote as they were not present at the May Meeting.

Mid-year Report – Ms. Jiorle will present the HRC Mid-Year Report on the HRC activities to date to the Council at the June 18 Council Meeting. Ms. Jiorle will cover events and actions taken to date. Ms. Falkenstein may join to discuss the Metuchen High School's efforts and work through the Empowerment Club including the impact on the health curriculum.

Metuchen Human Relations Commission Fall 2018 -The Metuchen High School Grade 11 (Junior) member will be Jordan Valiquette

Next Meeting Agenda Topic – Discuss and plan 2019 events for consideration including possible events in February, December (Human Rights Day), May (Metuchen World Day), June (partner with an organization for a satellite LGBTQ event) and October (Metuchen Country Fair). The HRC will also discuss any ideas related to or for the Empowerment Club for the coming school year.

Upcoming Meeting/Important Dates

- Next meeting – August 7, 2018
 - Update- The August 2018 Meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

Current Commission Members

1. Nicole Blankiet
2. Sophie Falkenstein
3. Richard Green, III
4. Leah Jiorle
5. Hazel-Anne Johnson
6. Linda Koskoski
7. Kevin McPeek
8. Asela Mourao
9. Aiden Nelson,
10. Ozair Omarzai
11. Ben Small
12. Reena Wade
13. Ed Zelley