

**Metuchen Human Relations Commission** Tuesday,  
November 12<sup>th</sup> 2019 **Minutes**

**Call Meeting to order at 7:40 PM:** Hazel-Anne Johnson & Nicole Blankiet

**In Attendance:** Nicole Blankiet, Richard Green, III, Leah Jiorle, Hazel-Anne Johnson, Asela Mourao, Jordan Valiquette, Reena Wade

**Welcome to any members of the public/public comment:** Hazel-Anne Johnson & Nicole Blankiet: Robin Brown, Member of the Metuchen Accessibility Committee was in attendance

**Review & Approval of October minutes:** Asela Mourao - moved to next Month due to abstentions

**Report from the Council Liaison:** Sheri-Rose Rubin (absent) would announce our Speaker Series at the Council Meeting

**Comments sent from the public:** Hazel-Anne Johnson- someone mistakenly emailed HRC inquiring about Metuchen Public Schools

**Old Business and Next Steps:**

- Book Club/Speaker Series update - Leah
  - Ethel Brooks, Rutgers Professor & Metuchen resident to speak at November 13<sup>th</sup> book club event at 7pm on the book Rising Out of Hatred. All confirmed with Speaker and Library.
- Nicole: Grant Speaker Update – Discussion on dates & choice of speaker to be tabled for now
- Wider dissemination of our upcoming events. Email & FB message requests for a listserv. Burbio Calendar App. needs to be updated with our meeting dates and with our events. We can email The Metuchen Mirror by Nov 15 our upcoming events to be included in the next issue.

**New Business**

- Collaboration and Joint Projects with Accessibility Committee -
  - Robin Brown suggested we swap Liaisons to attend one or more of each Committee's meetings. MAC meets every 3rd Wed, 8-9. Jordan expressed interest in representing HRC. - We need to check with Borough Council if the Liaisons would need to be Appointed.
  - Another suggestion was to include in next year's Book Club Series something related to disabilities issues. Robin said she would research and follow-up with recommendations. HRC was on-board with that idea!
  
- Replacement for the Secretary position- Asela Mourao informed the HRC that she would resign as Secretary for 2020 due to other commitments. Richard volunteered for January while HRC figures it out.

- Discussion as to how to get an MHS member of the Jr class to join the HRC as Liaison. Reach out to their Guidance Dept, teachers/ advisors discussed. Asela suggested sending a formal letter to the school to be forwarded to Faculty and Guidance and get potential candidates that way. Jordan said she would keep looking/ asking.
- Metuchen Peace Mural Project – potential collaboration with Metuchen Arts Council, the MDA or both- tabled for now since it would be for 2021 year.
- Winter Parade (November) - due to low attendance/ availability, HRC will not participate
- Human Rights Day (December 10)- Settled on reaching out to the Library for Sunday, Dec 8, 4-6 and Cai's for our 3rd Annual Event. HRC noted that it was a busy day with the House Tour and other Holiday activities.

### **Upcoming Meeting/Important Dates**

- Book Club Speaker Series – November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:00 pm
- Winter Parade – Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at 4:00 pm
- Drag Queen Story Hour – To be rescheduled.
- Expired Terms for 2020

**Adjourned 8:37pm**

### **Current Commission Members**

1. Nicole Blankiet 2. Richard Green, III 3. Leah Jiorle 4. Hazel-Anne Johnson 5. Kevin McPeek 6. Asela Mourao 7. Ozair Omarzai 8. Sheri-Rose Rubin 9. Ben Small 10. Jordan Valiquette 11. Reena Wade 12. Ed Zelle