

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2020 – Remote Meeting – 6:30-7:30 pm

REMOTE PARTICIPATION MEETING

Conducted pursuant to the Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Gen.L.c.30A &20, et seq., and 940 CMR29.01, et seq.

In response to Governor Baker's declaration of a public health emergency and the related Emergency Executive Order dated March 12, 2020, the Human Rights Commission shall be meeting remotely until further notice. The audioconferencing application Go to Meeting will be used for this purpose. An online link and telephone access number will be provided on all meeting agendas and also on the Human Rights Commission website. This application will permit the public to access and participate in future Human Rights Commission meetings. Instructions for joining meetings in this manner will be provided on the Human Rights Commission website. . We extend our thanks for your understanding in this manner, which is intended to keep members of the Commission safe.

Chairman Kevin Merritt called meeting to order, stating the declarations above and asking all members to identify themselves and their home address.

Online for the meeting were:

Kevin Merritt

Lindsay Beal

Pat Kilty

Sheila Ryder

Donna Gaffey

Erin Tracy Bradley, MD

Emma Kilbride

Select Person Raymie Parker

Residents: Farrah Ridore.

After roll call a motion was passed with all members in agreement the meeting began at 6:30 pm

First order of business was to approve the meeting minutes for August 27th, Discussion was started but did not have quorum as some members now in attendance were not members at the time of the meeting and due to absence of member who were present. Approval held for next meeting.

Kevin Merritt wished our former Student Representative Cailin Kennedy well he then introduced newest member, Emma Kilbride appointed by the School Department. Emma is a lifelong Stoneham resident, currently a senior at Austin Prep and a member of the Women of Austin Group at the School as well as President of the National Honor Society.

Raymie Parker brought forward the subject of thinking ahead to November, promoting a book or an article.

Raymie and Pat Kilty discussed the Subcommittee formed by School Committee members Rachel Warren and Thomas Dalton on, "Dismantling Structural Racism" and making inquiries for information and having a member of the HRC attend. Resident Farrah Ridore commented that she had participated in the meetings and suggested we reach out to either Rachel or Thomas to get on their email list.

Farrah also suggested making connection with the Coalition and Kayla Vodka, as well as have discussion with Stoneham Police Department.

Donna Gaffey mentioned Active Bystander Training (Quabbin Mediation) and possibility of doing virtual training with that group, Wakefield HRC had this on their agenda as well as Lexington provides this to their employees. Erin Bradley, M.D., seconded the Active Bystander Training and suggested inviting others to the program

Sheila Ryder suggested sending out the information list HRC had put together, send out to people we know through mail and variety of print options, (senior newsletter). Sheila also brought up Zoom Book Club and possible whimsy activity of people getting together for something like a Pumpkin Sunday.

Lyndsay Beale made a suggestion to assist the group in prioritizing ideas, suggested utilizing a sticker system to list issues and priorities.

Increase crowd sourcing

Reach poor constituents

Increase use of subcommittees

Data Analysis

Board Member Expertise

Creative Networking

Creative Communication

Pick some low hanging fruit.

Next discussion was the article written about the HRC by Erin Bradley, M.D. and submitting the article to the Independent as a Letter to the Editor. Discussion of details regarding listing of members name was started. Chairman asked to move to vote to send for publishing. Motion was made by Donna Gaffey, seconded by Sheila Ryder.

Next discussion regarding Critical Incident Report and possible subcommittee forming to review for questions and answers. Pat Kilty asked the report be sent out to everyone.

Next meeting was scheduled for October 22, 2020.

Motion was made to adjourn by Erin, seconded by Sheila a roll call vote was held. All in agreement. Meeting ended at 7:30pm