

Windsor Human Relations Commission

Minutes of Meeting

February 20, 2007

Present: Chairperson Max Kuziak; Leonard Swade; Bill Warner-Prouty; Frank Stewart; Richard Knickerbocker; Yvonne Mitto and Diane McDougald, staff.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 at the Town Hall, Ludlow Room.

Approval of minutes: The minutes for the Windsor Human Relations Commission (WHRC) meeting of January 10, 2007 were approved with the correction of adding Yvonne Mitto to list of members present.

Education committee: No report

Conversation on Race: McDougald reported that the Council Chambers was filled with residents for the Conversation on Race Kick-off. She also reported that the COR was televised live on WG-TV channel 21 and it is still running for those who did not get the chance to come out. There were several registrations completed that evening. However, we still need to recruit more participants.

New Student member: Stewart reported that he had spoken with Betty Feser, Superintendent of Windsor schools and she agreed to encourage the high school principal to meet with HRC. Feser also assisted in getting a new student member assigned to HRC. Kuziak has agreed to contact the new student member assigned to commission to invite to next months meeting.

Budget: McDougald report to the commission that they still needed to identify what their final project would entail. She informed the commission that there is approximately \$500 left in the budget and that should be kept in mind we deciding the scope of the next project. She also stated that the money needed to be expended by June 30, 2007. McDougald distributed the Town Council's goals for 2007 for the commission to consider for budgetary purposes to make the appropriate allocations for the budget year 2007/2008. After reviewing the budgetary goals of the town council the commission agreed to allocate \$1,000 for the Bridge Builder Awards; \$300 for a formal educational program with a guest speaker while leaving the balance of \$200 for training. McDougald reminded the commission that they needed to include budget line items for things such as copying, mailing and supplies. The commission requested that McDougald adjust the budget appropriately to include monies for the additional items. Discussion ensued regarding the use of the balance for this year's budget to identify alternative uses for funds. Discussions developed around the topic of immigration rights. It was decided that since a lot of time was spent on Reverend Johnson's comments of "well meaning Whites" that perhaps they have Reverend Johnson to speak at a forum surround this topic. Mitto agreed to contact Reverend Johnson regarding his availability. Kuziak also wanted to investigate training opportunities for the commission as a viable expense for the budget balance. The commission agreed it would still try to complete its original objective of having an informative session.

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Complaint Letter: The complaint from Lenworth Walker's was read and discussed by the commission. The commission reviewed the Article II of the Town Ordinance. Human Relations Commission; section 2-5 entitled Responsibilities. After lengthy dialogue and review the consensus of the group was that the commission will send a letter acknowledging Mr. Walker's complaint. Chairman Kuziak agreed to write the response to Mr. Walker and send copies of the response to Attorney General Richard Blumenthal; United States Senator Joseph Lieberman and Connecticut State Senator Eric Coleman. It was also decided that it would be appropriate for complaint letter to be forward to Mr. Peter Souza to respond to Mr. Walker's questions regarding town policy and procedures.

Mr. Steward made a motion that after considering the complaint the commission realized that the answers to his questions needed to be determined as to the facts. We will forward the letter to the Town Manager, Mr. Peter Souza, for detailed responses. Mitto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The next Windsor Human Relations Commission meeting will be on Wednesday March 14, 2007 at the Town Hall, Ludlow Room, at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment was called at 8:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane McDougald