

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

Present: Kevin Washington, Chairperson; Richard Knickerbocker, Vice Chairperson; Pamela Lofton-McGeorge, Patricia Mack, Viola Nahabedian, Len Swade, Joyce Armstrong and Diane McDougald, Liaison

Absent: Max Kuziak (excused) and Bernice Johnson (unexcused)

Special Guest: Ricardo Herrera, Executive Director - Ascend Mentors and Yalanda Squirewell, Resident

Agenda Items Discussed:

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Washington at 7:16 p.m.

2. **Public Communication:** Welcomed all guests Yalanda Squirewell and Ricardo Herrera. Ms. Squirewell is a resident of Windsor and was invited by HRC Liaison McDougald. Yalanda indicated that she is interested in providing support to HRC. Ricardo Hererra was invited by Commissioner Knickerbocker to discuss the Ascend mentoring program.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** August 8th and August 16th

***Motion:** Commissioner Knickerbocker made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for August 8th meeting. 2nd by Commissioner Nahabedian. Vote: 7-0-0. Motion Passes.*

***Motion:** Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for August 16th meeting. 2nd by Commissioner Swade. Vote: 7-0-0. Motion Passes.*

4. New Business:

a) **Ricardo Herrera,** Executive Director – Ascend Mentoring

Ascend Mentoring provides mentoring and support services for youth and their families. Ascend Mentoring was started in 2009 when Windsor Chief of Police Kevin Searles saw a need for a program that would provide services for at-risk students to help them reach their full potential along with services for their families. The mentoring program offers the students with mentoring in both within the school and community settings. Mentors are recruited, trained and matched with a youth. Ascend also offers academic support, job hunting assistance and financial education volunteer opportunities, and mental health services for youth and their families. Mr. Herrera expresses his interest in partnering with HRC to assist in providing youth within the program opportunities to gain volunteer, leadership and career skills. HRC extended an invitation for the youth to attend future meetings and an opportunity to volunteer at the Peace Festival next month. Chairperson Washington and Commissioner Mack will contact Mr. Herrera to discuss opportunities further.

b) Tim Moore, YMCA

Tim was unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency. However, Chairperson Washington indicated that Tim wants to meet with the commission at a later date and that the YMCA still wants to participate in the Fitness and Nutrition event on Saturday, October 15th.

5. Committee Reports: None

6. Liaison Report: None

7. Old Business:

a) Bridge Builders

- *Chairperson proposed changes to the Bridge Builder Award Application regarding the Bridge Builder Legacy Award and Bridge Builder Chairman's Award categories.*
 - **Bridge Builder Legacy Award** paragraph will be eliminated and will read as follows **"Nominations for this award will be selected by the Human Relations Commission."**
 - **Bridge Builders Chairman's Award** paragraph will be eliminated and will read as follows **"Nominations for this award will be selected by sitting Chairman."**

Motion: *Commissioner Mack made a motion to accept the change application regarding the Bridge Builder Legacy Award and Bridge Builders Chairman's Award as discussed. Motioned 2nd by Commissioner Swade. Vote: 6-0-0. Motion Passes.*

- *HRC has decided to select two recipients for the Legacy Award, which will be Nellie Holmes-Mason and James Mason.*
- *Deadline for Bridge Builder Award is October 10, 2016.*

b) International Peace Festival

- *Chairperson Washington indicated that he has assigned the following Commissioners to assist with planning the Peace Festival as follows:*
 - **Peace Dinner:** *Commissioner Armstrong*
 - **Windsor Idol Talent Show:** *Commissioner Mack*
 - **Health & Fitness Fair:** *Commissioner Lofton-McGeorge*
 - **Advertisement (flyer) & Media:** *Commissioner Knickerbocker*
- *On September 16th Win-TV will be doing a recording Ad for HRC's International Peace Festival.*
- **Windsor Idol Talent Show: Friday, October 14th**
 - *Location for event has not been confirmed. Still waiting to hear if Sage Park Middle School is available and the cost to associated with using the building. If not, HRC will request to host the event in the Town Council's Room at Town Hall.*

- *Entry fee will be \$5 per person*
- *Commissioner Mack will work to obtain sponsors and prizes for this event.*
- *Chairperson Washington is currently working on completing the Talent Show application. Once location is determined the application will be completed and ready for distribution.*
- *Pre-Auditions will be held on September 30th from 7pm – 10pm at Town Hall. Screening of the talent will be conducted by the HRC Commissioners.*
- *HRC is in the process of finalizing the panel judges for the Talent Show. HRC will reach out to Kendrick Moore, WHS staff member and Dr. Lipman to be judges.*
- *Concession Stand: Commissioner Armstrong, Liaison MacDougald and Yalanda Squirewell (volunteer) will be responsible for planning, purchasing & selling snacks for the event.*
- *Also, HRC will partner with Ascend to provide volunteers to assist with event such as handing out flyers and seating guest, etc.*
- **Health and Fitness Fair: Saturday, October 15th**
 - *Attendees will be asked to bring a can good to the event to be donated to the Windsor Food Bank. Commissioner Armstrong has offered to deliver all collected can goods to the food bank after the event.*
 - *YMCA will offer Zumba and Yoga classes during the fair. Will need to check with Tim Moore/YMCA to see if the instructors for each class will provide their own audio equipment.*
 - *Farmer’s Market: Commissioner Lofton-McGeorge has contacted the Jane Garaby from the Windsor Chamber of Commerce to provide guidance in inviting vendors from the Farmer’s Market to participate in the HRC Health & Fitness Fair.*
 - *Vendors: Still need to finalize vendors to participate in fair. Commissioner Armstrong will reach out to Branford Hall to inquire about possibility of students providing Chair Massages. Additional vendors to reach out to includes Gold’s Gym for persona trainers, Chiropractors located in Windsor, Men’s Spa, and Nutritionists.*
- **Peace Dinner: Sunday, October 16th**
 - *The location to host the Peace Dinner will need to be changed due to the cost to use Loomis Chaffee. Loomis Chaffee uses Aramark and the cost for Chicken Marsala dinner would be \$49 per person. The cost is too expensive, so HRC will seek other restaurants or catering services in Windsor. Suggested places include Track 139 restaurant, Tunxis Grill, Dom’s Catering or Chef Renee.*
 - *Dr. Shelia Colbert and Sapna Rahavin have already confirmed to be keynote speakers at the dinner.*
- **Advertisement**
 - *Chairperson Washington has requested funding of approximately \$250 to purchase the advertisement posters and yard signs.*

Motion: *Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to approve funding up to \$250 for the purchase of advertisement posters and yard sign. The motion was 2nd by Commissioner Mack. Vote 6-0-0. Motion passes.*

- **Event Name Changes**

- *Commissioner Swade made suggestion to change name of the International Peace Festival by eliminating the word “International”. Also, Commissioners suggested to change the name of the Health and Fitness Fair to “Fitness for All” fair.*

Motion: *Commissioner Mack made a motion to change the event title by eliminating the word “International” and rename it “Windsor Peace Week.” And rename the Health and Fitness Fair to “Fitness for All” fair. The motion was 2nd by Commissioner Armstrong. Vote: 6-0-0. Motion Passes.*

8. Items from Commissioners

- *Commissioner Swade mentioned that he attended a Community Forum in Bloomfield, which was really good. Also, indicated that he reached out to the Windsor High student and is currently waiting to hear back from him.*

9. **Adjournment:** Chairperson Washington adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Motion: *Commissioner Mack made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was 2nd by Commissioner Nahabedian. Vote: 6-0-0. Motion Passes.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Lofton-McGeorge

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HRC Secretary