

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)

MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 2017

Agenda

Roll Call: Present: Kevin Washington, Chairperson; Patricia Mack, Vice Chair; Pamela Lofton-McGeorge, Secretary; Joyce Armstrong; Tracy Green; Jeremy Lawson; Len Swade, Max Kuziak, and Diane McDougald, Liaison

Absent: Kimberly Williams (excused, but resigning)

*Current HRC Commissioner Vacant Positions:

- 3 vacancies (2 full & 1 alternate)
- Change Commissioner Jeremy Lawson from alternate to regular member status (Liaison McDougald to check_[MD1])

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

2. **Public Communication:** None

3. **Approval of Minutes:** August 17, 2017 meeting

- **Motion:** Vice Chair Mack made a motion accept minutes with noted corrections. The motion was 2nd by Commissioner Swade. Vote: 8-0-0. Motion Passes.

4. **New Business:**

a) Treasurer Discussion (By-Laws)

- Deputy Mayor Terranova-indicated HRC can add Treasurer or add duties to Vice Chair responsibilities
- **Motion:** Vice Chair Mack made a motion to revise By-Laws to insert Office of Treasurer in Section II – “Officers – Election; Term Duties” as item E in this section and all other paragraphs will follow accordingly. The motion was 2nd by Commissioner Swade. Vote: 8-0-0. Motion Passes.
- **Duties of Treasurer:** Treasurer will work with HRC Liaison in the maintenance of the HRC Commission’s budget for fiscal responsibility and to report the fiscal status to the Commission at each monthly meeting
- **HRC By-Laws Revision:** Review current By-laws for any changes/updates and submit your suggestions to Liaison McDougald by October 1st (discuss & vote on changes at next meeting)

b) **Commissioner Round Table:** Moved to Agenda Item # 8 “Items for Commissioners”

c) Loomis Chaffee Collaboration – Commissioner Swade

- Attended program at Loomis Chaffee regarding IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Service)
- Met Eric J. Laforest: He is interested in collaborating with HRC
- Art show exhibit by Iraq artist – would like HRC members to attend and assist in spreading the word about the event
- Suggested collaboration with Loomis Chaffee regarding Diversity Issues

5. Committee Report:

- *Student Rep - Justin Scrusse informed Liaison McDougald that he would be at meeting (no show)*
- *New Student Representatives suggested: Xavier McGeorge and Kyle Wilson*
Motion: *Vice Chair Mack made a motion to appoint Xavier McGeorge and Kyle Wilson as 2017-2018 Student Reps, which will require them to attend monthly meetings. The motion was 2nd by Commissioner Green. Vote: 8-0-0. Motion Passes.*
- *Chair Washington – Contact WHS Principal to notify of new student reps and to update Xavier McGeorge previous community service time*
- *Vice Chair Mack suggested reaching out to Abby Butterfield regarding her interest in being a student rep (Commissioner Lofton-McGeorge will contact her).*

6. Liaison Report: *Liaison McDougald reported the following activities:*

- *September 16th: Freedom Run – starts @ 5:30a.m*
- *September 17th: 11th Annual Union Tavern Trot*
- *September 23rd: Freedom Trail Walk – starts @ 7:30 a.m.*
- *September 19th: Northwest Park Country Fair (10am-4pm)*
- *Windsor Library: Planning “One Book One Windsor” reading. Selected book: “The Glass Castle” by Janet Walls. HRC will discuss further regarding participation next Fall.*

7. Old Business:

a) Bridge Builder Planning: Event November 30th

- *Liaison McDougald updated application and will send out to HRC Commissioners to review*
- *Press Release – September 25th: distribute on Facebook (Windsor Community), Twitter, Win-TV and Journal Inquirer*

b) Muslim Forum:

- *Sammy Aziz contacted Chair Washington to collaborate on conducting a Muslim Forum at the Windsor Library*

c) Senior Event with Commission on Aging & Persons with Disabilities October 12th: *(move from agenda – no discussion)*

d) Youth Transition for Teens with Disabilities Forum – Commissioner Armstrong

- *Commissioner Armstrong talked with Linda Rickard and now waiting to discuss further with Amy Siliman-Avedisian to coordinate event.*
- *Also, a suggestion was made to contact and partner with Youth Commission*

e) Community Festival (not on agenda)

Motion: *Vice Chair Mack made a motion to add Community Festival event to agenda. 2nd by Commissioner Lawson. Vote: 8-0-0. Motion Passes*

- *Saturday, April 28th: Chair Washington suggested including a “Windsor Cupcake Wars” competition.*
- *Chair Washington will contact Health Department regarding protocol and guidelines.*
- *HRC Commissioners asked to bring suggestions/ideas for discussion at next meeting*

8) Items from Commissioners (Changed to Commissioner Round Table):

- a) Chair Washington: Chair Washington and Vice Chair Mack will present HRC Annual Report at Town Council Meeting on Sept. 18th. Sept. 22nd – Chair Washington and Vice Chair revisiting African American Museum in Washington, DC with 6 other people, which will also include tour of White House.
- b) Commissioner Lawson: Discussed the transition from Columbus Day to Indigenous People Day on October 9th. Indigenous Day is a day in honor of Native Americans. Commissioner Lawson would like the Town of Windsor to examine it and bring forth to Community. Proposed that HRC submit request for a resolution. Chair Washington and Commissioners Lawson and Swade will work to create resolution.
- c) Commissioner Swade: Update about IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Service) and Windsor residents who sponsored a Refugee family who resides in West Hartford. Also, mentioned concern with Christmas Tree in Town Hall, which he feels is a violation of separation of church and state. In addition, concerned that Chili Fest is always held on Yom Kippur and he is opposed of it.
- d) Commissioner Kuziak: Asked if the HRC has any standing committees? If not, Committee section should be taken out of By-laws.
- e) Commissioner Lofton-McGeorge: Suggested that HRC create committees to allow for adequate planning and allow all commissioners an opportunity to assist in planning HRC events. These committees will plan upcoming initiatives and are expected to report to HRC with updates monthly until event date.

9) Adjournment: Chair Washington adjourned meeting at 9:23pm.

Motion: Commissioner Mack made a motion to adjourned meeting. 2nd by Commissioner Green. Vote: 8-0-0. Motion Passes

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Lofton-McGeorge

HRC Secretary