

**TOWN OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING NOTICE - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022**

HYBRID MEETING

1. **Call to Order-** Chair Washington called the meeting to order at 6:41 pm

2. **Welcoming Patrick McMahon** - Native to Windsor and went to Windsor High School and moved away to do work with others but came back to do work with Windsor again. Everyone round-robin introduces one another with a little bit about themselves.

3. **Roll Call/Attendance-** taken by Secretary Copeland. Present in Person: Patrick McMahon, Linda Massa, Joyce Armstrong. Present Via Zoom: Rebecca Jacobsen, Chairman Washington, Castella Copeland. Excused absences: Leonard Swade. Unexcused Absences: Pat Mack and Bryon Bobb. Copeland has a tracker via google sheets that is updated each meeting recently separated by Fall 2021 and Spring 2022.

4. **Public Communications:** Burke noted that there is no one present in the room and on Zoom. Chairman Washington closed the public communications portion at 6:50 pm.

5. **Approval of Minutes: February 9, 2022, No March Minutes**

Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to approve the February minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. **Liaison Report/Treasurer Report:** McMahon shared that the call for performers was posted on the commission website and will be posted on social media tomorrow. As far as a budget, the commission has a budget each year for programs such as the conversation on race, bridge builders, and phenomenal award ceremony and Juneteenth. We have about \$3,300 to work with through June 30th. The commission has about \$1800 remaining from the FY Budget. And then there is the \$534 from the Gillette fund. The Commission will need to develop a budget for Juneteenth and any other expenses envisioned through June 2022. Hopefully, the fund will grow over the years and let people know that people can make donations that will help human relations. McMahon inquired more about the scholarship fund. Chairman Washington shared about how fundraisers were done in the past.

McMahon shared he will check in with finance, but thinks this was a special fund. Chairman Washington shared that the town of Windsor did partake in the fund but is unsure if there is still \$600 for an essay contest for high school students in Windsor High School, Madina Academy, Loomis Chaffee. Chairman Washington expressed having a hard time communicating the April deadline due to school schedules. Chairman Washington is suggesting to better involve the students and children, we can dissolve the special line into Juneteenth funds. Massa is inquiring if any other Towns or communities are developing their events and scholarships? Chairman Washington and Commissioner Copeland shared that yes many towns are doing a lot of events and scholarships. Commissioner Copeland shared that this ties into the Juneteenth collaborative planning with the Town of Windsor, the Town of Bloomfield, the Town of Manchester, and the Town of Hartford in getting students involved. McMahon will check on the funding and get back to folks.

7. **New Business:**

A. At the Intersection of Race (April 24th, 2022) 3 - 5 pm EST new time interactive activity

New time for the event! Commissioner Copeland shared that this event will be about doing a deeper dive into intersectionality to understand more about oneself. This was highly requested by community members since additional conversations want to be had. Chairman Washington inquired if the flyer can be distributed to the community webpage and newspaper, along with potentially posted at all of the local schools.

Armstrong inquired if this could count as community service and engagement. Commissioner Jacobsen shared that Michelle Williams was the liaison and would be great to reach out to. Chairman Washington shared he will reach out to the Windsor High School Staff. Commissioner Massa inquired about reaching out to St. Gabriel to get those students involved and promote the event. Commissioner Massa will be reaching out to contact.

B. 5/28/2022 Saturday Bridge Builders Community Service Event

Chairman Washington shared gratitude for the bridge builder awardees who have made a difference and a change in the community. Commissioner Copeland shared that this will be a service event to have all bridge builders come together. Chairman Washington wants all awardees to reach out to previous awardees on special events and do volunteer work and give back to the community.

Chairman Washington shared that the local Food and Fuel is always in need of stocking up the pantry. Additionally, local homeless shelters are looking for socks and underwear. Finally, Chairman Washington shared that he reached out to Red Cross and they can host a blood donation. These are all ideas that we can discuss. McMahan pointed out that the Shad Derby is the weekend before and to incorporate it the week before by assisting other organizations to work smarter not harder. Commissioner Massa has two things: first good cotton socks are necessary for the homeless. McMahan also shared that we could do something to support the Ukraine issue by raising funds. Secondly, Commissioner Massa shared that the new pet shelter leader Kim has all the food inside the building and has been running.

McMahan shared that Juneteenth is a lot on the commissioner's plate. Having the event on the Shad Derby would be better, reach out to the Windsor Jaycees. Commissioner Armstrong also shared if pet food can be donated and gave out information that this service is available again. Commissioner Massa shared that people who are in need in the Wilson area may not be accessing this pet food service and she is willing to volunteer more on this topic. Chairman Washington inquired if McMahan could reach out to see if we can get space on the Green such as a table.

The Shad Derby Parade and Festival will be held on Saturday 5/21/2022 in Windsor Town Green.

C. Joshua Amaro Resignation

Commissioner Joshua Armano has resigned from the commission due to professional reasons. The commission thanks Commissioner Armano for his services and appreciate all he has done.

D. Juneteenth Events Thursday 6/16 to Sunday 6/19

Commissioner Copeland Provide Updates

Thursday 6/16 Spoken Word as Storytelling 6:00 - 8:00 pm potentially at the Art center
Commissioner Copeland shared that Andre Rochester is the lead on this with an intersection of sexual orientation and race.

Friday 6/17 Black History Jeopardy @ 7:00 pm at the Town council
McMahon and Commissioner Copeland connect separately on the slides. Chairman Washington shared that only award tokens no cash prizes. Chairman Washington shared that medals were given out to the winning teams.

Saturday 6/18 Bloomfield, Wilson, and Windsor Events
Wilson Public Library: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm: storytelling with interactive books and drumming circle
Windsor Historical Society 10:00 am - 4:00 pm: trail of stops to learn more about Windsor History
The Ray of Hope Project 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM McMahon Wintonbury Library: interactive reading
Bloomfield Block Party Parade: TBD probably in the evening time there will be food and entertainment

Sunday 6/19 WHRC Juneteenth Celebration on the town green around 1 pm - 4 pm
All Church Community Service event: 10 am is still in the works.

Chairman Washington asked if the Town of Bloomfield can be included in the flyer with all of the events listed on it. Commissioner Copeland will reach out to a graphic designer to create a lead design and logo for Juneteenth. Chairman Washington shared that the design must fit on a T-shirt with feedback from the Town of Windsor and Bloomfield. Chairman Washington inquired if Fishy tail could come again to the town green and if the police department could do snow cones. McMahon shared that the snow cones are locked in but can reach out too fishy tales. Commissioner Copeland has a performers list to coordinate, organize and keep track of who will be performing at Juneteenth along with notes on educational opportunities for students to share their knowledge.

Commissioner Massa shared that CVS does not have a key to the display Window but needs to find out who owns the CVS to access the Window. McMahon will be able to find out and Commissioner Armstrong shared other groups that have contacted them within the past few months that the commission could be in contact with. Chairman Washington shared that Food and Fuel could potentially share the window with them. Commissioner Massa shared that the side windows are also nice. She also shared that the commission could do a donation to the food group to potentially share the window more. Chairman Washington shared that we mainly need to have some kind of space and that sharing would be a great opportunity just until Juneteenth. Commissioner Massa asked if flyers could be posted? Commissioner Armstrong shared that due to covid many places do not take paper flyers as much anymore. She shared that she tried to talk to Ocean Job plaza to get events broadcast. Chairman Washington shared why put up posters if they will be ripped down? McMahon shared that posters can be shared at the libraries and senior centers.

McMahon shared that we could reuse the logo and design to create continuity for the event. Working smarter not harder and saving money along the way. Commissioner Massa shared that we could do something simpler to do t-shirts with. Chairman Washington shared that Sandra and others can potentially help with screenprint onto t-shirts. Commissioner Copeland shared that this can be edited and formatted onto a T-shirt to be similar to the main logo. Chairman Washington will reach out to Bloomfield to communicate the logo and decision made. McMahon will check on the A-frame that Human Relations has.

7. Old Business:

A. BIPOC Health-Conversation on Race (February 27th, 2022)

Chairman Washington shared that we had three doctors who were on the panel who were well attended and had a great conversation. The focus was on racism within the medical profession along with having conversations about how to address it within a medical setting.

B. Ukraine Vigil Grace Church (March 6th, 2022)

Chairman Washington shared that we had a lot of senators, Loomis Chaffee students, and families who have folks in Ukraine. Many community members were moved by the speakers and grateful to have the opportunity to speak up and out against the violence.

C. Bridge Builder 2022 (March 10, 2022)

Chairman Washington shared praises for awardees and the great work they have contributed to the community and shared additional sentiments earlier in the meeting under the Bridge Builders Community Service Event.

D. Antisemitism Jewish Community (March 20th, 2022)

Chairman Washington shared we had two amazing panelists who educated the community on Jewish history and current dilemmas which was well received. The conversation focused on how Jewish people are affected by the antisemitic language promoted by media and other sources in our country as well as ways to disrupt the bias and hatred.

E. Women's History Month/Phenomenal Women (March 30th, 2022)

Chairman Washington shared that the event was well attended and in person! Great to honor and recognize the women of Windsor who have contributed a lot. The event was recorded and up online, hundreds of community members take pride in this event and truly appreciate the phenomenal women.

F. Jim Burke Retirement (April 1st, 2022)

Chairman Washington shared that the Human Relations Commission provided a gift to Jim Burke to celebrate his service. Commissioner Copeland shared she sent pictures of Jim's Gifts and items. Chairman Washington mentioned that Commissioner Copeland will share the cost of the gift with the others so that she can be reimbursed for the gift on behalf of the Human Relations Commission.

G. The Rise of Asian Hate (April 10th, 2022)

Chairman Washington shared that this event was powerful with a lot of young people on the panel. Kevin Booker Jr. was a co-facilitator and the young panel shared so much amazing information from their own experiences.

To check all of these events out please visit the website here:

<https://townofwindsorct.com/community-development/human-relations-commission/>

8. Round Robin Updates from Commissioners

Chairman Armstrong shared that an event is coming up: healthy minds healthy Windsor on May 24, 6 - 8 includes dinner that is free and will make sandwiches and chips. Chairman Washington shared that this could potentially be shared via Windsor Human Relation Commission time.

Commissioner Massa shared for Juneteenth the concern of the time from 1:00 - 4:00 pm on food, maybe reaching out to Mel to get some cupcakes. Chairman Washington suggested that we could send folks over there. Commissioner Armstrong shared that there was a list of places people could go to support and get food. All commissioners shared that getting food is expensive and a bit tricky. Commissioner Massa suggested many local restaurant businesses that would be great to have for the event. Commissioner Armstrong and others shared that a permit and document are needed to have them on the green. Commissioner Massa shared that we could reach out to Lily restaurant. McMahon shared that the Aqui restaurant would be great to have, he will reach out to see if they can attend and provide food. Commissioner Massa shared a moe-town band would be great if possible.

9. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Chairman Washington at 8:08 pm and seconded by Commissioner Jacobsen.

Next Meeting May 11, 2022

Respectfully submitted

Castella Copeland Vice-Chair