

**TOWN OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING - NOVEMBER 9th, 2022**

WINDSOR TOWN HALL, LUDLOW ROOM

1. CALL TO ORDER - CHAIR/COMMISSIONER-JUDGE WASHINGTON

6:36 the meeting was called to order.

2. ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE - SECRETARY/COMMISSIONER MADISON

Present were: Judge Kevin Washington, Castella Copeland-Smith, James Madison, Byron Bobb, Joyce Armstrong, Linda Massa, Rebecca Jacobsen, Patrick McMahon.

Excused absences were: Leonard Swade, Thomas Hayes, Lisette LaTorre.

Unexcused absences were: Pat Mack.

3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

No members of the public were in attendance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - OCTOBER 2022

Vice Chair Copeland-Smith moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0-0.

5. LIASION REPORT - PATICK MCMAHON

Books for One Book One Windsor were distributed.

Anyone looking to understand the conversation series or attend the event must register. This can be done on the web site.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. COMMISSIONER PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE - Chair/Vice Chair

Chair Washington noted that all commissioners are expected to attend events. The commission needs to be known in the community, and that requires consistent attendance. Participation is also expected and is critical to success. The 30,000 citizens of the town are like our customers and where here to serve them. This is not "Kevin's Commission", it's "Our Commission". This obviously does not preclude life circumstances, trips, illness, and so on.

Vice Chair Copeland-Smith will be distributing action items to everyone to help facilitate participation.

Vice Chair Copeland-Smith asked whether we should have a catch phrase.

b. COMMISSIONER-CALENDAR UPDATE - Chair/Vice Chair

Secretary Madison asked that due to the level of detail, all specifics of our events be maintained in a shared document. That document is here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aisIeWJjZ0QV5TzABYFCp_D6umHEI3g0gKKcfmjxMyA/edit#gid=2141977483

Only specific action items or nuances that are too detailed to be in that spreadsheet will be listed in these minutes.

Vice Chair Copeland-Smith noted that we're trying to standardize on Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and Tuesdays in the evening, though the evening times can vary a bit.

Vice Chair Copeland-Smith will reach out to the Conservation Commission for the 12/10 Think Global Act Local event.

Chair Washington designated the following events as "All Hands on Deck":

- **1/12 Bridge Builders Award Ceremony**
- **1/14 Bridge Builders Service Project**
- **1/31 Conversation on MLK and the Tulsa Race Riot.**
- **3/9 Annual Phenomenal Women.**

Chair Washington noted the speaker for the 1/15 MLK event should receive an honorarium. The commission will vote on this in a future meeting.

Chair Washington reminded everyone to donate any books from One Book One Windsor that they don't need to the library, and to be sure to tell them it's on behalf of our commission.

Chair Washington is working on a 1/28 trip to the Holocaust Remembrance Museum. If this is a go, the Ken Burnes item from the calendar will be dropped. Hoping to get 20-25 participants.

General discussion indicated collective agreement in having some events in Wilson. The 2/25 Black History Poetry Song and Dance event was designated as a good candidate for this.

Chair Washington will work on further details for the 4/14 trip to Smithsonian African American History Museum in D.C.

Commissioner LaTorre had previously volunteered to reach out about scholarships. Chair Washington asked that the minutes remind her that this is probably best done in early January.

Chair Washington is encouraging everyone to come in drag for the 6/24 Gay Black Pride event. Commissioners Bobb and Madison expressed their reservations at the idea. ☺

Early next year, the commission will plan a September event since the summer prevents it from happening most years.

c. VETERANS PRESENTATION-Chair/Vice Chair

Chair Washington expressed his appreciation to the veterans on the commission. Commissioner Madison expressed his appreciation to Chair Washington for his service as well.

d. BRIDGE BUILDER NOMINATIONS AND AWARDS - Chair

Nomination process is now open. Anyone interested can go to the web site and make nominations.

e. CONVERSATION/DECOLOGNIZING THANKSGIVING - Vice Chair

Vice Chair Copeland-Smith renamed it to Conversation Series: Decolonizing Thanksgiving.

f. TENTATIVE TRAVEL - NEW YORK

We are still under consideration for going to the stock market and ring the bell.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Halloween event was a success and they were grateful for our involvement, with particular thanks to Commissioner Massa.

8. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Jacobsen will work on finding a way to get the books for One Book One Windsor to the library. Chair Washington was not sure of how to get it there. We will point out that it may serve as community service hours.

Commissioner Massa will be on a mission trip in January. Going to the Dominican Republic to help families in poverty.

Commissioner Armstrong noted that sock drive was a huge success. Over 1,000 pairs. Included hygiene kits. Food bank is doing awards on 11/17, but not open to the public. Food bank is having a donation event at ACE Hardware from 12:00 to 2:00 on 11/19; get a 20% discount on purchases.

9. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING - DECEMBER 14/2022 @6:30 LUDLOW ROOM

Commissioner Armstrong moved to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Madison, Secretary