

**TOWN OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING - APRIL 4th, 2023**

ROSE ROOM, 6:30 PM, IN PERSON AND ZOOM

1. CALL TO ORDER: VICE CHAIR/COMMISSIONER COPELAND-SMITH

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE-SECRETARY/COMMISSIONER MADISON

In attendance were: Castella Copeland-Smith, James Madison, Joyce Armstrong, Pat Mack, Charles Copeland, Aleks Gould, and Patrick McMahon.

Excused absences were: Leonard Swade, Lisette LaTorre.

In attendance as pending members were: Jody Denno.

3. WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Charles Copeland is now on the commission. Welcome from the team. Jody Denno is expected to be a member in the near future, so was in attendance.

4. REMEMBERING HON. JUDGE KEVIN WASHINGTON

Commissioners and others in attendance reflected on the many contributions of Judge Kevin Washington. He will be much missed.

5. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

In attendance from the public were Desiree Primus, Jessica Drost, Kevin Booker, Jr.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 2023

Commissioner Joyce Armstrong moved to accept the minutes as amended. Commissioner Charles Copeland seconded the motion. Passed 5-0-0.

7. LIASION REPORT & FINANCIAL REPORT - PATRICK MCMAHON

Budgeted total is \$3,280 with a total of \$2,175 expended, leaving \$1,105. Details can be found in the full budget that was distributed.

Last year, Juneteenth cost \$3,334. This does not bode well. We will need to raise more funds.

8. SHAD DERBY PREPARATION –BRIDGE BUILDER SERVICE PROJECT

The space will be \$50, and about \$50 of trinkets are needed. This will overlap with the Bridge Builder's service work. Everyone is asked to bring various practical clothing items--which must be new!

Vice-chair Copeland-Smith will work with Sandra to get a flyer out.

9. MEN'S HEALTH – COMMISSIONER MADISON

Commissioner Madison reports that everything is on track.

10. JUNETEENTH--COMMISSIONER COPELAND-SMITH

Jermika Cost sent a formal proposal to the HRC for the Community & Neighborhood Enhancement Project that would create a partnership between them and us. Commissioner Copeland moved that we decline the offer. Pat Mack seconded. Conversation indicated that the commission currently has far too much going on, so we would decline. The vote was 5-0-0 in favor (meaning declining the offer)

The commission felt that we need to ask for a larger budget. At this point, it would be for the 2025 budget. Starting in December 2023, we should submit a revised budget proposal.

10.1. BLACK HISTORY JEOPARDY 6/16

The remaining work is to finalize the slides. Commissioner Copeland will handle the work and has lots of students who can get community service hours doing the work. All commissioners are asked to send questions/answers to Commissioner Copeland so they can be compiled. Awards will be given in the form of certificates since they have no cost.

10.2. PERFORMING ARTS & POETRY SLAM 6/17

Marcia Hinckley is coordinating the speaker and will have bottled water. Liaison McMahon will get basic snacks for the event. Commissioner Copeland will ensure the schools know.

We have many poems that were favorites of Judge Washington, so if anyone wants to read them at the event, please let us know.

The event is PG-13. For young adults. So swearing is allowed.

10.3. PASTOR SWAP 6/18

First Church and Hopewell Baptist exchange pastors. Though sometimes it's more of a merge. If anyone has any sentiments they would like to share, contact Vice-chair Copeland-Smith. The service is at 10:00 a.m.

10.4. TOWN GREEN EVENT 6/19

The idea of a drag conversation was discussed, but the commissioners felt there was too much already going on, so a "strut" at the end will be added instead to provide the same focus, but easier to do.

The detailed timing of the event was discussed and will be distributed in email to work through the final details.

11. SCHOLARSHIP - COMMISSIONER LATORRE

Commissioner LaTorre submitted the criteria to the high school. The scholarship fund is \$300 this year and next, then the money runs out. The funding is raised by contributions. We need to focus on getting more funds for it.

12. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Secretary Madison discussed how we can address long term members who might not be able to attend in person. The commissioners discussed and agreed to think about ways to address it.

13. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Commissioner Armstrong moved to adjourn. Commissioner Copeland seconded. Meeting adjourned 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Madison, Secretary