



Wakefield Human Rights Commission General Meeting

December 28th, 2023 by Zoom

Commissioners Present: Jessica Sutich, Sherri Oken, Teresa Aravena-Gonzalez, Olivia Dannenberg

Commissioners Absent: Rabbi Greg Hersh, Vanessa Westlake, Jeremy Little, Jillian Dymont, Michaela Lyons

Liaisons and Ad Hoc Members present: Amy Rando

7:03 pm Call to order

1. Call to order and Roll Call
2. Public Participation: None
3. Minutes: Voting on November minutes tabled until quorum can be met at the January meeting.
4. Financial Report: **Jess to reach out to Lori and Diana from the Arts Council about being reimbursed on the grant use** and determine the deadline for reimbursement submissions for this year.
5. Position statement:
 - a. A discussion was held but in light of the holidays, a quorum was not met to vote
 - b. As an organization of volunteers mandated to abide by open meeting laws and needing to give 72 hours of notice to the public prior to any meeting, it may not be possible or appropriate for the WHRC to respond immediately to all current events
 - c. Our focus should be on Wakefield residents and issues affecting Wakefield directly
 - d. Maintaining as comprehensive a list as possible of resources that can be posted to support and inform town residents of where they can seek help and support when necessary could be a possible quickest step to take
 - i. This could include the WHRC email for people to reach out to bring things to our attention if it has not been seen by us.
 - e. If another organization in town is holding an event and asks for support or if a member of the public attends a meeting and requests support or a response, we could consider it.
 - f. TBD: **Sherri to set a meeting with Steve Maio to discuss support and guidance** from town leadership and town council liaisons.
 - g. Possibly post an article in the item about the WHRC mission
6. Flag Policy
 - a. Commission members considered public input from Julie Scott and discussed any additional responses to the Town Flag policy
 - b. Note: Currently, there is only one flag pole at Town hall and the Americal Center is one of the few town buildings with more than one flag pole.
 - c. The consideration of adding flag poles to Town Hall or other town buildings and determining the cost of doing so, sits with the town council and the WHRC has nothing further to add to the flag policy at this time.
7. Activities – MLK/CSK Day
 - a. On MLK day, we need readers, someone selling signs. **Contact Sherri if you can be there.**

Activities: International Women’s Day: Will be focused on Technology.
8. Matters Not Anticipated: None
9. Action Items:
 - a. Jess to discuss with Sherri about organizational structure of Shared folder files

- b. Jess to reach out to Diana/Lori of the Arts council about grant reimbursement
 - c. Commission members to reach out to Sherri to volunteer for MLK day
 - d. Sherri to reach out to Steve Maio about position policy
10. Motion to Adjourn at 8:05. By Olivia, seconded by Jess. All approve. Adjourned.
11. Minutes respectfully submitted by Jessica Sutich