



Wakefield Human Rights Commission Meeting

Tuesday, December 20, 2022, via Zoom

In attendance: Teresa Aravena-Gonzalez, Mehreen Butt, Jeremy Little, Daniela Nedbalek, Amy Rando, Eileen Rooney, Vanessa Westlake

Absent: Ashley Carter, Elizabeth Assenza, Lindsay Averbook, Nicole Jacob, Sherri Oken, Benny Wheat

Call to order: 7:04pm

Check-in question: what is the song that makes you happy?

1. Approval of minutes:

a. IPD Meeting Minute Approvals i. 8/30/22 ii. 9/13/22 iii. 10/5/22 iv. 10/17/22

-Push to next meeting since not enough of a quorum.

b. MLK Sub-committee Meeting Minutes i. 12.1.2023 ii. 12.9.2023

-Teresa made motion to approve minutes & Eileen seconded, both voted to approve.

c. WHRC General Meeting Minutes i. 11.15.22

- It is not formal to address a commission member by the role they serve vs. their name.

-Daniela motioned for approval, Jeremy seconded – all voted to approve & be posted after “the treasurer” was changed to “Daniela Nedbalek”.

2. Martin Luther King Day Event Update:

- January 16th at 10am at the Galvin

- QR code to a google form to nominate community members, organizations, and students who exemplify Dr. & Mrs. King’s spirit of hope, grace, and charity in the Wakefield community.

-Woodville community to dance (previously performed at Diversity Day)

-Hope to have theatre club students do a reading from MLK’s speech

-Celebrating the 60th anniversary specifically vs. picking a theme

-Working w/ Boys & Girls club to do a day of community service: anyone in the town can join in on the community service

- waiting to hear back about a poet's participation
- Typically, duration is 90 minutes, but in the past there were other activities by the B&G club (planting trees, painting hands & hanging) afterwards
 - Other details from past MLK Day events: shower supply donations, donations to our food pantry, etc.
 - Our police could use backpacks or coats to have on hand when the pantry is closed. The Malden warming center has a larger clientele so they could utilize donations and have more storage. There is a domestic violence survivor (Respond) support agency
 - Jason Stone: town-wide social worker, was just hired. Sits at the food pantry, goes to the library, etc.

Action: Amy to send Eileen donations & other volunteer contact information

- The high school doesn't have a community service obligation, but the youth council could collaborate with us on amplifying the volunteer efforts associated with this event. National honor society or Tri-M have requirements for service hours but the art.

Action: Eileen to draft email & Vanessa to share with different student communities on different ways they can volunteer.

- Art & poetry contest in parallel
- There was a list of ways to get involved in the community (Jeremy & Teresa were involved) in lieu of getting everyone together during the pandemic and would need to check if these opportunities are still available.

3. Budget Update

- Send Sherri & Steve an email. Propose what we did in year's past, what it cost, & estimated future year spend so Steve can incorporate into his budget proposal that he gives to town council and finance committee
- May hear back on the grants in January

Action: HRC members (former and current) who were involved in any prior purchasing, please review finance summary document Daniela will send & fill in the event the cost was for if you know it! We can discuss in next meeting.

4. Matters not anticipated

- IWD is coming up. Sherri is planning & thinking about panelists. **If you're interested in being involved in the subcommittee**, it would be helpful & **please let Sherri know**.

- Youth council is starting snow angels' program which connects senior citizens with teenagers to help shovel their walkways so they can travel during the winter season.

Action: Please reach out to the youth council if you or someone you know has a senior who could get involved.

5. Review action list

a. Amy to send Eileen donations & other volunteer contact information

b. Eileen to draft email & Vanessa to share with different student communities on different ways they can volunteer.

c. HRC members (former and current) who were involved in any prior purchasing, please review finance summary document Daniela will send & fill in the event the cost was for if you know it!

d. If you're interested in being involved in the IWD subcommittee, please reach out to whrc@wakefield.gov

e. Please reach out to the youth council if you or someone you know has a senior who could get involved in their snow angels' program.

Adjournment at 7:35pm