



# Wakefield Human Rights Commission Meeting

## Tuesday, January 17, 2023, via Zoom

*Participants:* Teresa Aravena-González, Elizabeth Assenza, Nicole Jacob, Jeremy Little, Daniela Nedbalek, Sherri Oken, Amy Rando, Eileen Rooney, Benny Wheat

*Absent:* Ashley Carter, Vanessa Westlake (Youth Council)

*7:04pm call to order*

### 1. Approval of minutes:

#### a. MLK Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

##### i. 1.6.2023

- Teresa motioned to approve, seconded by Jeremy.

##### ii. 1.11.2023

#### b. WHRC General Meeting Minutes

##### i. December Minutes

- Daniela motioned to approve, seconded by Teresa.

#### c. IDP mtg minutes (8/30/22, 9/13/22, 10/5/22, 10/17/22)

- Benny motioned to approve all subcommittee minutes of 2022,

Eileen seconded.

### 2. Martin Luther King Day Event Debrief

- Lots of talented dancers, very successful event
- Front page of Item & lots of comments
- Adding the younger kids guaranteed attendees & a different vibe
- Great speaker from the Boys & Girls club

#### a. Follow up re: Day of Service

- Day of service is February 4<sup>th</sup> from 10-2pm
- Can break people up so people show up at 10am and noon
- Will be painting a mural that is designed by the Boys & Girls Club in

Wakefield

### 3. IWD Subcommittee & planning

a. Confirmed for March 8<sup>th</sup> at the high school from 7pm-8:30pm in the cafeteria.

#### b. Should we plan to have a table of refreshments?

- In past years the MLK event had refreshments after, parents noticed.

Let's keep this going with future events.

- Could get volunteers to bake
- Mehreen gave Sherri a contact who could be a speaker from

academia.

c. What about the idea of having a man on the panel?

- Reinforcing a gender binary system if we only have people who identify as man or woman.
- An opportunity for a man on the panel isn't needed on a day to celebrate and amplify voices of women.
- Recommendation to have a big piece on allyship for anyone who doesn't identify as a woman but supports

d. Theme is: Embrace Equity. A potential topic to discuss is "feminism & womanism of today". Question about the plan, is it to ask the same question in all different generations, understand feminism of the past to now, etc.?

- Do we need a panel? Or can the speaker give a speech?
- Haven't had a formal committee meeting yet so need to have that in order to answer how we will narrow down the focus.
- Barbara: cut into live audience if we assign press and do a post press, amplify to watch the replay.
- Talking about equity and talk about the ways that those of us who are women, who have a lot of privileges, and have ways to step back and amplify other voices in equity efforts.

e. Benny volunteered for the IWD planning committee

#### 4. Budget Update

a. Breakdown by each event was given, from 2022-2023, totaling at least \$2380.

b. We do a lot of work to put events together, it is time consuming so adding on financial duties on top, our resources are already stretched thin.

c. If Steve cannot get approval to move our \$1000 budget to \$3000, we should speak with members of our Town Council and encourage them to support our request.

- We should be keeping a record of how many people take part in our events so we can collect birds-eye data on the town's ROI from the WHRC events.

#### 5. Matters not anticipated

a. Kate Lipper-Garabedian reached out to several HRC Chairs and requested someone to attend her podcast to speak about the work we're doing in our town. Wakefield's episode will be in January.

b. Lindsay Averbrook stepped down at the end of the month. Nicole Jacob is stepping down this year – big shoes to fill!

c. Antisemitism trends in our neighborhoods and across the country are on the rise.

- Daniela posted our boiler plate on Facebook. Link to ADL Antisemitic Attitudes in America: Topline Findings:

<https://www.adl.org/resources/report/antisemitic-attitudes-america-topline-findings?fbclid=IwAR1NvQzVAinvHca546J9Kd2-q0-XmIZ9IQfOWb7GVj-5pLTgMod0kzVB2BI>

-Eileen reached out to the Anti-Defamation League to come to one of our meetings and let us know how we can be proactive and support best.

-Sherri noticed walking around during Channukah that there weren't any menorahs like there usually was in the past.

-Question about our police: what happens when events like this happen? Amy: Police are generally called when symbols, graffiti, etc. are seen. They would need a suspect to investigate. It is good to report to the police because the police move it to a stats collection. Luckily we haven't had recent events for years.

-Can we reconnect with the local Jewish congregations: is there anything we can do to support or call for support in the community.

d. There are different people for reserving space in the high school.

-There have been changes to the contact people for reserving space in the schools if you need a direct contact. The online reservation system is easy to use and confirmation only takes a day or two.

## 6. Review action list

- a) Eileen to share MLK mtg minutes from 1/11
- b) Benny to email Sherri Dalton IDP mtg minutes from 2022
- c) Eileen to share Day of Service information with Daniela to post on Facebook & send an email to all who signed up to register for time slots.
- d) Eileen to share Nicole a screenshot of The Item front page (& comments?)
- e) Daniela & Eileen to email Steve Maio to request \$3000 from town budget. We've been working on shoestring event planning because we were beyond strapped with resources and have gone over budget historically still. On average we spend ~\$2500 so we're asking for \$3000 because the town deserves to have their needs met appropriately.
- f) Daniela to post opening on our committee (volunteer notice) on Facebook
- g) Sherri will announce opening in Books by The Lake
- h) Elizabeth to speak with local rabbi Greg (will be seeing him tomorrow, Weds 1/18)
- i) Sherri will send over a revised contacts list for our tool kit

8:05pm Adjournment