



Wakefield Human Rights Commission General Meeting

July 18th, 2023 by Zoom

Commissioners Present: Olivia Dannenberg, Jillian Dymment, Jeremy Little, Jessica Sutich, Sherri Oken

Commissioners Absent: Geeticka Upmanyu, Teresa Aravena-Gonzalez

Liaisons and Ad Hoc Members present: Steven Skory, Stephen Maio, Mehreen Butt

Public Present: Rabbi Greg Hersh

7:02 pm Call to order

1. Public Participation: No public participation at the meeting
2. Town Manager, Steve Maio shared resources and ideas. Moved up in agenda b/c of Steve's schedule
 - a. Jillian to set up a meeting with Steve (zoom or in person) to go over accounts and other finance resources.
 - b. Pitched an idea to consider focusing more on education events (similar to 2017 speaker series) to be a resource and to raise visibility in the community.
 - c. Offered the council more info on the open meeting law if needed.
 - d. Sherri will share a link to the video of Tom Mullen speaking on open meeting law. Please review before the next meeting.
3. Approval of WHRC general meeting minutes for April 18, 2023 and June 27, 2023
 - a. **WHRC General Meeting (4/18/23):** Still haven't gotten the first half of the meeting minutes from Geeticka.
 - i. Sherri will coordinate with Jess to put together meeting notes from the recording that was made. Jess will then assemble the notes for the next meeting
 - b. **WHRC General Meeting (6/27/23) minutes:** Jeremy made a motion to approve meeting notes from the 6.27 general meeting. Jessica seconded. All voted in favor.
4. WHRC Financial Report and Procedures:
 - a. Jillian got the report. Going forward she will receive it 10 days in advance of the meeting to review for the meeting.
5. Operational Procedures
 - a. Sherri to send- the Town's handbook for committees and commissions to the group. Everyone to review for the next meeting.
6. Summer/Fall Activities – Participation and Resource Discussion The group agreed on a goal of 2 or more commissioners coordinating each event and discussed various resources for planning.
 - a. **Note:** Consider partnering with neighboring town HRCs (Reading/Stoneham) as we do planning and programming. Mehreen amplified this.
 - b. **Note:** Steve Maio offered town resources. The communications department headed by Jenn McDonald can get event info and promotional items out.
 - c. **Note:** Be sure to refer to the event programming Excel document for a contact list.
 - i. Jess will keep that document up-to-date. Sherri will add Bob Vincent to the programming document. (Sherri will share Bob Vincent's (WAAV) contact info to add to the programming document)
 - d. **Note:** Mehreen suggested the library to partner on events.
 - e. **Town Day (10-7-23):** They have a table for us already. Sherri will send out info so we can sign up to sit at the table. 1-2 hour shifts.
 - f. **Farmers' Market:** It's currently filled until fall. Jeremy will reach out to farmer's market and Steve (cc Sherri) about getting some earlier dates for the WHRC to have a table.

- g. **Hispanic Heritage Month Commemoration:** Teresa is spearheading the event. Sherri will be the second. There are also already two community volunteers.
 - h. **Indigenous People Commemoration:** Jeremy and Olivia will work on this. We partnered with Reading last year. Reach out to them. Suggestion to think about a storytelling event at the Albion Cultural Exchange.
 - i. **Educational speaker series:** Jillian, Jess to spearhead. Steve and Olivia to help.
 - i. **Location:** Can use the High School Theater or Library. Make sure to connect with the Chamber and check the Town & Library calendars for conflicts with events and the Sweetser series of lectures.
 - ii. **Possible topics:** Diversity and Inclusion in the workplace, neurodiversity, addiction and harm reduction.
 - iii. **Mehreen noted:** If we use speakers from marginalized communities, make sure to compensate them (stipend/honorarium)
7. Items to order
- a. **Hate Has No Home Here** signs (attached graphics were shared): After review of several design variations, Sherri will order the design we've had in the past.
 - b. **Peace Flags:** Jillian shared more info on these flags. Jillian will Order 50 and test interest.
8. Issue Updates
- a. **Vocational School Design and Siting:** The siting has been denied and will not going forward as is. Update was provided by Pete Davis. More updates will come.
 - b. **Wakefield Logo** –attached proposed designs were shared.
9. Matters not anticipated:
- a. Jillian flagged a CTA to support a MA proposal by Gov. Healey for an updated Comprehensive Inclusive Health Curriculum. Jillian will share information via email.
 - b. Olivia will be posting on social media about disability awareness month.
10. Action List:
- a. Jillian to set up a meeting with Steve (zoom or in person) to go over accounts and other finance resources.
 - b. Sherri will share a link to the video of Tom Mullen speaking on open meeting law to be reviewed before the next meeting.
 - c. Sherri will coordinate with Jess to put together meeting notes from the recording that was made. Jess will then assemble the notes for the next meeting
 - d. Sherri to send the Town handbook to the group. Everyone to review for the next meeting.
 - e. Sherri will share Bob Vincent's (WAAV) contact info. Jess will add to the programming document.
 - f. Sherri will send out info for Town Day (10/7/23) so we can all sign up to sit at the table.
 - g. Jeremy will reach out to farmer's market and Steve (cc Sherri) about getting some earlier dates for the WHRC to have a table.
 - h. Jillian and Jess will connect and reach out to Steve Maio and Olivia about Educational speaker series. Will present more info next GM.
 - i. Sherri will order the "Hate has no home here" sign design we've had in the past.
 - j. Jillian will Order 50 Peace flags to put out at events and test interest.
 - k. Jillian will share information on MA Health Curriculum proposal via email.
 - l. Olivia will be posting on social media about disability awareness month.
11. Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn at 8:03 p.m., seconded and all voted in favor.
12. Minutes respectfully submitted by Jessica Sutich