

Wakefield Human Rights Commission

MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, June 18, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: WCAT Studios, 24 Hemlock Road, Wakefield

Commissioners Present

Jennifer Boetcher

Reverend Matthew Cadwell

Isabel Castro

Richard Greif

Christina Joseph

Frankie Lawton

Pina Masciarelli Patel

Maria Muti

Amy Rando

Bob Vincent

Benny Wheat

Public Present

Sheila (UU Church of Wakefield)

Police officer representing Lt. Skory

Eric

Kevin

Absent

Superintendent Doug Lyons, ex-Officio

Town Administrator Steve Maio, ex-Officio

Lt. Stephen Skory, ex-Officio

1. Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm
2. Minutes of May 14, 2019 meeting were approved
3. No public participation

4. State of Hate event review.

- Pina shared ADL feedback. Maybe add a nominal fee of \$5 as a way of predicting and keeping track of attendance.
- After the event, other public entities such as The Peabody Town Council and other organizations want to learn from the Wakefield Human Rights Commission and possibly partner with us.
- Amy Rando brought up the issue of janitorial fee. Improve communications. Find out about other fees and accommodations before events.

5. Pride Month events review

- Great reception and attendance.
- Frankie informed us about an upcoming Pride ice cream, social on June 26th, at the Boys and Girls Club. Richardson is donating the ice cream.
- Reverend Cadwell made a reflection and intentionality of the event. Also, made a point on not focusing only on alcoholic drinks. In future events, put water and soft drinks in more available places. Frankie suggested including a mocktail station
- Reverend Cadwell, Jenn Boetcher, and Bob Vincent were present at the “Festival at the Lake” and informed us that the Pride stickers had a great reception. Bob was impressed with the large amount of young people coming to the table to request stickers
- Jenn Boetcher and Frankie Lawton also organized a family friendly Pride Event on June 9th, where they read Pride related children’s literature
- Benny: Would had like to see the Trans flag raised with the Pride flag. Avoid exclusion.
- The unofficial amount of money collected for Pride was \$4100. \$1100 in raffles, \$3000 in donations and tickets. Most profits are being donated to the North Shore Alliance of GLBTQ Youth (NAGLY) except for \$350 to be used to cover initial expenses of Pride 2020.

6. Discussion of need to form nonprofit organization

- Maria Muti and Amy Rando: when organizing events like “A Taste of Pride” is very difficult to work under the current *open meeting system*, without breaking the law. Frankie Lawton proposed the idea of making “A Taste of Pride” a non-profit idea. He wants to expand the idea of a non-profit, fundraising to other areas and events
- Rich proposed forming a small-subcommittee to research non-profit status. It was clarified that the Wakefield Human Rights Commission will remain as a town body. The non-profit status will be for events like “A Taste of Pride” Frankie made a motion to form an exploratory committee . The motion was accepted with a 9 to 1 votes. The subcommittee will be conformed by Frankie Lawton, Maria Muti and Bob Vincent.

7. Chair's Comments - Focus for coming year/advocacy agenda

Discussed in # 6

8. Summer/Fall events: Farmer's Market, UU Church, Other

- Sheila from the UU Church visited us to talk about their October Program. Pina proposed addressing the issue of women being exploited in massage parlors. Great response from most commissioners willing to participate in this issue. A sign up sheet of interest was passed around to meet in July.

9. Summer meeting schedule

July meeting was cancelled

10. Matters not anticipated for agenda

- Rich and Bob: Concern about becoming a Commission that only does events Bob mentioned the statutes, specifically the WHRC Function and Powers, #5 Policies and Procedures and # 6 Civic Rights.
- Consensus to interact with other agencies
- Frankie expressed that having a non-profit status for certain events does not stop advocacy

11. Action List

- Pina: find out about procedures to deal with janitorial issues and the contact person
- Rich: investigate which other groups book town facilities in June
- Rich?: find out about town banner placement and if there is a law stating that there is only one place in town to hang banners.
- Rich: find out about Web Page
- Rich: Farmer's Market availability
- Frankie: talk to Steve Maio about new law being discussed about flags in the Civic Center
- Frankie: find out date and commissioners willing to travel to NAGLY'S headquarters to donate money.
- Pina and Maria: research book options to discuss in the library in October, related with women's exploitation and human trafficking.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10