

Wakefield Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Tuesday, November 19, 2019 Meeting
Wakefield Community Access Television (conference room), 24 Hemlock Road, Wakefield, MA

Present:

Jennifer Boettcher
Isabel Castro
Rich Greif
Frankie Lawton
Pina Masciarelli
Maria Muti
Amy Rando
Benny Wheat
Doug Lyons, Ex-Officio

Absent:

Chief Skory, Ex-Officio ¹
Steve Maio, Ex-Officio
Kristina Joseph
Reverend Matthew Cadwell

1. Call to order: 6:33
2. Approval of October 2019 minutes with minor changes.
3. No public participation
4. "Massachusetts Human Rights Coalition." It took place on Friday, October 25th. Pina, Maria, Jen and Amy attended. The most notable information shared was the topic of related with the Intersection of law enforcement and human rights and Restorative Justice. Two organizations named were Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ) and Pathways to Restorative Communities.
6. Out of practical reasons, we skipped to item 6 to let Doug Lyons, our ex-Officio member speak to us and answer questions. The conversation focused on Diversity / Inclusion Plans, Socioeconomic Diversity
 - ESL Students Needs. The intention is to keep them in the school where their home is close, not uproot them.
 - EDI: Equity, Diversity, Inclusion
 - How to attract diverse faculty, Adaptive responses
 - Technical responses: what is it like for a student of color to be part of WPS?
 - The METCO Boston Program has a new director. Her name is Glavia Smith. Wakefield serves 69 METCO Students.

¹ This is a question for perhaps Maria or anyone. When we accepted the October 2019 Meetings, you told me not to mark our ex-officio members, absent, but on all previous meetings they appeared as absent. How do you want me to proceed? Mark them as absent or not put the names at all?

- Areas of growth for the WPS: including is not enough.
 - To the WHR Commissioners question of how to get more involvement from students, Mr. Lyons told us of voluntary initiatives as Community Service for 8th graders. Also, Civics is coming back to the curriculum, perhaps that could be an avenue.
5. Advocacy/ legislative issues. Friday, December 13th. 9:00-9:30. Medford City Hall. Finding volunteers to attend this meeting. Time is inconvenient for many WHR Commissioners.
 6. Indigenous Legislative Agenda. Topic was briefly discussed.
 7. Template for emergency responses worked by Maria, Jen, and Pina. Minor changes were made and was approved by all. There was consensus to add it to our Policies and Procedures.
 8. Events
 - UU Church Speaker Series, on Thursday 10/17 was successful. It is available for video for anyone interested.
 - Wakefield 101, Thursday 11/21. 6:30-8:30, at the Beebe Library. Benny will attend
 - Wakefield Menorah Lightning, Sunday, 12/22. All invited.
 - MLK DAY, January 20, 2020. On this November meeting we reflected collectively on the purpose of our MLK Day.
 - International Women's Day 2020. Find possible dates and topics.
 - March 28, 2020. It is the 50th Anniversary METCO Celebration, in Boston. More information coming.
 - Wakefield international Night is on April 3, 2020.
 9. WHRC Open seat. Sub-committee meeting soon to review applications. Reshape the email. Reach out to previous candidates.
 10. WHRC Supplies Storage: Looking for space to store the WHRC'S belongings.
 11. Matters not anticipated for agenda. Social Media conversation of kindness. Melrose initiative to do one act of kindness a day and post.
 12. Review Action List and Adjournment at 9:32

ACTION LIST

1. Pina: work on "School Doodle" and communicate with custodian.
2. Maria, Jen, and Pina. Do minor changes to the approved emergency response. Change "tweak" to "amend." Work on the final line of the paragraph.
3. Maria: do research about how to integrate our template paragraph into our policies and procedures.
4. Maria: find out if we could have a Google Document or any electronic document of any kind to access our policies and procedures. It will be for consulting, not for editing, collaborating, or deliberating. Consult with Tom Mullen, if necessary.
5. Rich: Ask Doug Lyons if the Proclamation is on the school web page, or if he could upload it.

6. Rich: follow up with Jen McDonald to post updated version of the Proclamation
7. Benny: Attend Wakefield 101, Thursday 11/21. 6:30-8:30 , at the Beebe Library. Get materials from Rich, Frankie and brochures from Pina and Amy.
8. Pina and Amy: print brochures
9. Benny: Contact Marlisa Burke, Marlisa.Burke@wpsk12.org
10. Pina: meet with new METCO director. (Isabel will like to attend, available some mornings after December 10th).
11. Rich: follow up with Julie about storage
12. Rich and Maria: allocate funds for upcoming events.
13. Everybody: attend Wakefield Menorah Lightning, Sunday, 12/22 at Sundown
14. Anyone: attend HR Sessions, in Medford City Hall, December 13th.

MLK

1. Frankie: keep in contact with Kidcasso and Boys and Girls Club for MLK
2. Jen: Liaison to the preschools and elementaries for MLK art projects
3. Rich: In charge of awards and volunteers for MLK. Also, pass information to Benny.
4. Pina: Reserve space for MLK, write flyer for the button competition, write flyer for cold weather packages. Send article to the Daily Item.
5. Everybody: think about a theme for MLK, also speakers and awards' recipients.