

Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes

March, 18, 2021.

Opening

The regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission on Webex was called to order at 5 PM on March, 18, 2021.

Present

Beena Pandit, Karrell Rose, Ritu Goel, Charles Margolis, Carolyn Carey, Linda Jeski, Mary Etter, Mary Justine Hockenberry, Anitha Elango.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Public Input: None

Indigenous Peoples Day Event

Anitha Elango suggested that the event is celebrated around October 11 to align with the actual Indigenous people's day. The Nowashe Village run by the friends of The Wood Memorial Library could be used for a community event. Native American storytelling and recounting of the culture and history of the native tribes of this region could be part of the event. The HRC will work with the "Friends" to put together this event. Beena Pandit suggested planting Native trees and focus on nature could lead to the actual event in October. Charlie suggested that artisans creating some indigenous art and an evening meeting around a campfire would be some suggestions.

Poetry Day

The event "Coming Out of Covid" will be a poetry and community event. Poet laureates from South Windsor, Manchester and Vernon will read poetry to the community. The Audience will also be invited to read their poetry. The tentative date for South Winsor is Aug 22nd and the event will be held at Nevers Park. The poetry will be compiled and published. The event will need logistical help where HRC can help out and also help with publicity. The HRC can also help with volunteers who can be part of the steering committee who can steer the publication of the book.

Book Club

Linda Jeski has been working with Mary Etter and library staff such as Sandy and Kate to start the book club. They have been providing her with guidance support and resources. The library has many copies of books available for book clubs and they have suggested some titles for the first club. Linda suggested May 13th at 7 PM, as the date/time for the first book club and going forth the HRC can decide on future dates.

Future Events

Charlie suggested reviving the photo contest for 2022. Beena suggested that many hobbies or projects that people have cultivated during this past year could be possible theme. Ritu suggested renewing food drives, mental health, an event with Interval house, SWAF, working with the GSA. Anitha suggested an event that could focus on sustainable practices, green technologies used in South Windsor by companies, businesses, initiatives by the town or organizations. Beena suggested that conversations on race continue especially in light of the Asian hate crimes happening around the country.

Liaison report: Mary Etter the library liaison said that the event on Social Justice was rescheduled to March 31st. A professional Flautist was scheduled to give a virtual performance on Saturday evening April 10th. This is part of the libraries regular concert series and there will be a lot of publicity for this event. They are also looking to arrange a story telling virtual event.

Mary Justine Hockenberry, the Town Council liaison reported that there had been a suggestion put forth in town council meetings about merging the HRC and the new Social Justice and Racial Equity committee that was being created. An ordinance to the effect was in the works by the Town Council. The town council would like to know HRC's thoughts on this matter. Most of the HRC members felt that combining the two was not a good idea. The conclusion was that HRC would draft a statement that would reflect the HRC's thoughts on the matter and would forward it to the town council.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Anitha Elango.