

Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes April 15, 2021

Attendees

Beena Pandit

Stephanie Weintraub

Karel Rose

Anitha Elango

Ritu Goel

M J Hockenberry

Charles Margolis

Carolyn Carey

Agenda Items

Chairperson welcomed new member, Stephanie Weintraub to the HRC.

Revised Meeting time.

It was agreed to keep the meeting time at 5 pm.

HRC Logo

The decision on a logo was tabled until the next meeting when more choices could be reviewed.

Open discussion on how to bridge the gap between culturally diverse population of South Windsor.

Beena Pandit suggested that when planning events, we keep in mind the community participation and whether the event will attract a more diverse community. Ritu Goel suggested that the events planned focus on issues or problems that the community is facing. Charlie Margolis suggested when looking at substantive events focused on issues, we first need to identify what are the issues that matter to the community. M.J Hockenberry highlighted the fact that some problems that community members could be facing such as domestic violence etc will be something that they are not comfortable sharing or bringing out into the open. Anitha Elango opined that both programs that brought the community together to interact are as important as events planned around important issues that people face. Ritu goel suggested creating a survey of what our community would like HRC to work more on and on the survey we list topics and then ask people to check which options they might consider as being important. Charlie suggested that we could also ask people to rank order them in importance and that would make it simple and efficient. Stephanie Weintraub suggested that HRC also

include information on the HRC and create an awareness on who we are and what the HRC does for the community. MJ hoped that HRC would do a program on *COVID* where people would share their experiences and feelings on the pandemic. Beena highlighted the fact that Charlie Margolis is already part of a committee that has planned poetry readings and publications on *COVID* in collaboration with surrounding towns. She also suggested that the farmers market where the HRC has held events like the International Peace Day could be a perfect place to collect survey information. Anitha and Carolyn Carey both cautioned that the survey should guard against bias especially considering the population that might take the survey because that could skew the results and invalidate the results. Beena reminded the commission that for Indigenous People's Day we had looked into planting trees and Ritu said that she would reach out to Parks and Rec on possible sites and community involvement in planting trees. The meeting was adjourned