Minutes

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Date | time Wednesday, July 25, 2018 7:08 pm | Meeting called to order by Ritu Goel  
*Ritu opened the meeting at 7:00 asked to hold until 7:15 to accommodate some people who were coming late.   
Michael seconded, people arrived, meeting called to order at 7:08*

# Roll Call

**Members Present:** Ritu Goel, Karell Rose, Lloxci Lopez, Christy Shaher, Michael Pare. **Town Council Liaison:** MJ Hockenbery. **Observer:** Mary Etter. **Absent:** Carolyn Carey, Karen Wagner, Bina Pandit

# Approval of Minutes

MJ amended minutes. Michael called to accept amended minutes, Karell seconded, all in favor. Michael called to approve, Christy seconded, all in favor. Minutes approved.

# Agenda

* MJ gave the Report from the council liaison
  + 4th R happenings
  + Farmer’s Market on Saturday 8/28 from 10-1 is scheduled as International Day. Members agreed to try to come and introduce ourselves and be seen
  + Reminded us to spread the word to get out to vote August 14
  + Talked about how to improve Minutes
  + Michael reminded us to keep section 4 in mind if 5 or more of us happen to meet in public it would be counted as an official meeting and we can’t do that
* MJ or Michael will bring cheat cards to show how motions should be made, once again suggested we read Roberts Rules.
* Freedom of information act: Mary Etter provided us with handouts of some of the files that were emailed to the group and addition information with potential ideas. We talked about when to submit the minutes and the agenda. We talked about special meetings and about how all conversations are FOIable under the freedom of information act.
* Changes to by-laws: Ritu suggested to table the discussion on the By-laws until next meeting when everyone will have had a chance to go over them and debate changes. Michael moved to table, Karell seconded, All approved.
* Michael proposed creation of an HRC “Climate Survey”, something we can send to get a ‘temperature’ of the town
* Mary Etter introduced us to Sandy Westbrook, the Adult Programming Librarian, who could be instrumental in helping us with future events.
* Report about vigil in Windsor by Ritu. Lexi, Michael and Ritu attended
  + Prayer vigil hoping to prevent immigrant families from being separated
  + Ritu suggested we try to join with other local HRC groups to learn what they do and to consider some joint events when things are more global than our town (Windsor, West Hartford, Manchester & Vernon)
  + Karell mentioned a related interfaith prayer vigil being held 7/26 at 6 pm, some members were hoping to attend
* Facebook -- discussed setting up or trying to take over management of the South Windsor HRC Facebook page. Michael and Christy have offered to get the ball rolling on that and after checking in with Rick Star, will try to determine best way to get started with that, even if we start off small, we want to try to get pictures of us out in the community up on the page and make it so that we can start getting events that are planned out there.
  + Ritu proposed that she, Christy and Michael are administrators to start. Michael Seconded and all approved
  + Christy proposed to contact Tech Support at Town Hall to update our HRC commission information to the town page. Lloxi seconded all approved
* Discussion to plan and eventually organize Calendar of Events, goals and ideas members have going forward. Early stages of fleshing out ideas. This will be the main focus of our next meeting. Some highlighted ideas were
  + Launching a HRC award to recognize what people are doing in the community to bring people together.
  + International Day of Peace, Annual September 21, start out small with a meet and greet type event, check with other HRCs to see if they would like to participate
  + International Potluck – possibly desert, Michael to take lead, possibly in summer
  + Holy Festival of Colors – try to keep it traditional, and yet also an all inclusive family day, probably in March or April. Look to Girl/Boy scouts who often have international food events
  + HRC Annual Photo contest, this was a big and easy to run event at the library that was loved and missed. Trying to think of possible themes. One possible idea is Migration Stories.

# Next Meeting

August 20, 2018. 7:00 PM, Library

Christy made a motion to cancel next meeting of August 22, but to add a special meeting on August 20 at 7:00pm. Michael seconded. All in favor. Michael made a motion to adjourn at 9:01pm, Karell seconded, and was passed unanimously.