

***Town of Hamden Human Rights and Relations Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of
September 10, 2020***

Attendance: Tracey Bowens; Rabbi Herb Brockman; Sean Cardwell, Chair; Weruche George; Ganiyu S. Mimiko; Mike Thompson; and Martha Walker

Call to Order: Chairman Cardwell called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of minutes of meeting of January 10, 2019: Chairman Cardwell entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting. Mr. Bowen motioned to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2020 meeting as amended. Mr. Mimiko seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence: Nothing at this time.

Old Business:

- a. *COVID#19* – Chairman Cardwell noted the test center at Keefe Center has been great for the community. Hamden has been doing a great job for the residents during the pandemic. Rabbi Brockman is wondering about the sharing and exchange of data and information. It was then suggested to contact Fire Chief Merwede for information, since he is overseeing risk management for the town.
- b. Mask Donation – We may have two entities in the community looking for HRRC to give out masks to those who cannot afford to purchase them. Rabbi Brockman said there are two religious organizations that hold soup kitchens, and members of the HRRC are welcome to come and offer masks.
- c. Teaching Tolerance – The movie for fall 2020 is about all set to go. Ms. Forte is no longer on the commission and Mr. Cardwell said the flyer on the Children’s March is uploaded and will enclose this link on the flyer for those who want to view the film. The Children’s March is regarding children in Alabama during the civil rights era. Lastly, we need to distribute the flyer to the various schools.

New Business:

- a. Voting Assistance – HRRC would like to see what they can do to assist the senior citizens in completing their voting ballots or assist the town with processing the mail-in ballots. Mr. Cardwell will contact Town Clerk, Vera Morrison to see if they need volunteers.
- b. Guest Speakers – Mr. Cardwell would like to encourage guests to attend the HRRC meetings, maybe schedule one every other month. Rabbi Brockman would like to invite the

*Hamden Human Rights and Relations Commission
Minutes of September 10, 2020 meeting*

students from the diversity club at the high school to join an upcoming meeting. Mr. Bowen may know of a guest speaker to invite for a future meeting. Ms. Walker will try to reach Miriam Kahn who is the advisor of the diversity (African American/Hispanic) club.

- c. Charter Commission – The commission discussed if the HRRC should review the charter and see if there are updates or changes to be addressed. Further review will be addressed regarding this subject.
- d. Monthly Movie Series – Ms. George will be the lead on future teaching tolerance program. She will look to working on the next film.
- e. Mental Wellness during COVID – There are pamphlets and materials on counseling services available to those in need of help. Mr. Cardwell would like the brochures displayed and available to the residents. Ms. Walker suggested the information be available at the Government Center and various locations, like the senior centers, Keefe community center.
- f. Other – Mr. Bowen reminded the commission that we are still interested in contacting other HRRC commissions in other towns to compare the mission and goals.

Executive Session: (if required, as needed)

Adjournment: At 7:58 p.m. Mr. Bowen motioned to adjourn, seconded by Rabbi Brockman. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Recorded by,

Patrice A. LeMoine

Patrice A. LeMoine
Substitute Clerk