

HRC MINUTES
February 15, 2017

Present: Kat Preftes, Chair, Peter Blaiwas, Tommy Furlong, Tom Getz, Ahmer Ibrahim, Judy Lacroix, Kathleen Shaw, Sheila Trieff, Hannah Wilson

1. "The times they are a-changing," and very quickly, at that! Our first goal was to talk about our role in the community as more grassroots groups emerge with some similar agendas regarding protecting human rights. Judy L had taken the time to write some of her general thoughts about the HRC meetings and goals which started our discussion. Peter B. read the HRC mission statement. Sheila T. read the RISE mission statement off FB which states: "RISE empowers local citizens to help shape the political environment by providing a platform to connect individuals with existing organizations, create action groups, share resources and provide education." Kat P. talked about our former mission as CDT. Tom G. mentioned the other grass roots groups that are highly energized, including the one he has joined, IMPACT. Hannah W. talked about having a liaison with the YWCA Racial Justice Committee and whether we can have a liaison with RISE. Peter B., Tom G., Ahmer I. and Shawn F. are planning to be at tomorrow's RISE meetings (possibly along with other HRC commissioners.)
2. Peter B. and Tom G. will speak briefly about HRC at this meeting. We talked about how best to describe HRC: "We are a City Commission that responds to incidents of discrimination and hate crimes, through cooperation with the Mayor, the NbptPoliceDept., and the superintendent of NbptPublicSchools. The HRC works proactively through education and advocacy to make our community more welcoming, inclusive and respectful. " They will convey who we are, what we do and suggest creating a liason with RISE so that we can each be aware of the other's work.
3. Kathleen S. spoke about HRC's history as a "No Place for Hate" Group in the early 2000's and then became an appointed Commission.
4. Some conversation about educative events that HRC might offer. Judy L. has several suggestions how to interface with Family Day for Yankee Homecoming. Ahmer I. talked about educational efforts as proactive events creating a "safe space."
5. Continued discussion about other goals in our 6-12 month planning efforts:
 - *Create relationships with new, emerging groups that have a stake in diversity, human rights, etc.
 - *Consider offering to lead a break out group should the opportunity present itself
 - *Advocacy/Educational Efforts
 - Article/letter writing campaign about who we are and the unique role we play in the community
 - Restate that if people hear or see something they should let us know
 - Children's events (Family Day, others)
 - Speaker or panel on specific topic or theme (immigration, racism, Ramadan) possibly with accompanying article in the paper about the issue
6. Other Business:
 - * Day of Service update from Peter B. Decision to postpone this effort for a future date.
 - * March Forum- Cancelled
 - *Kat P & Shawn met with principals, other meetings have been postponed due to weather.
 - *Hannah W informed us about the YWCA's Diversity panel scheduled for April 7, 2017.
 - *Hannah W. reminded the Commissioners about coordinating books at the NPL for LGBT Pride Display. Peter B. will join her on this effort for June 2017.
 - * Peter B. has invited Nancy Peace to our next meeting.
 - * Kat P. would like us to work on the "ORG Chart" to break down responsibilities at our next mtg.
 - *Kat P. reminded us to resist comments on emails and save them for energizing discussions that are open to the public.