

HRC Meeting July 13, 2018

Purpose: Meeting held in response to swastikas found painted on the rail trail.

Attendees: Kat Preftes, Chair, Kathleen Shaw, Peter Blaiwas, Ahmer Ibrahim, Tom Getz

Commissioners shared collective concerns that swastikas were found painted on the rail trail in late June. Also concerned that the community was not generally made aware of the incident until an article was published in the paper 2 weeks later, though the graffiti was cleaned up immediately.

K. Shaw was concerned about the optics of the police Marshal's comments. Response should have been issued the day after it happened.

A. Ibrahim felt it should be talked about and not swept under the rug. He expressed how our community finds this kind of behavior offensive, that as a community we won't put up with this kind of expression.

K. Shaw said this was a hate incident. She expressed that we as a community have failed our kids if they are doing this, as the Marshal surmised in the article.

K. Preftes asked if this incident had not made it to the Next Door media site, would it have been published at all?

A. Ibrahim said this incident merited a strong statement from the City– turn it into something positive.

Commissioners agreed a statement should be drafted by the HRC expressing these concerns.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:10 pm