

Town of Guilford

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes Public Meeting August 18, 2020 6:30pm via Zoom

Members Present: Jo Keogh, Chair, Jack Evans, Andy Gottlieb, Eric MacDonald, Maureen Raucci, Clarice Yasuhara

Members Absent: None

1. Call to Order:

Jo Keogh called the meeting to order at 6:45pm.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Jo Keogh made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2020 meeting. Clarice Yasuhara and Maureen Raucci seconded the motion.

3. Public Forum

No public forum.

4. Continuing Education

Discussion postponed until a subsequent meeting. The Commission discussed the resignation of Donna Daniels from the Commission.

5. Outstanding Items and Follow-up

a. Manual of Governance

The Commission discussed progress on the Manual and the addition of a procedure to amend it by quorum vote in the future. Jo Keogh made a motion to request Town Counsel to assist the Commission in drafting an addendum procedure to the Manual. Clarice Yasuhara seconded the motion.

In favor: Members Keogh, Evans, Gottlieb, MacDonald, Raucci and Yasuhara

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

b. Creating Student Liaison position at GHS

Clarice Yasuhara presented an update on the Student Liaison position. The Commission discussed whether parental consent was necessary regarding this position. Clarice will contact the principal at GHS to ensure the Commission is in compliance with existing policy.

c. Email and Facebook Communication

Jo Keogh discussed the Commission's current use of email communication and relayed to members the Town Counsel's recommendations on the appropriate use of email among Commission members.

Commission members also discussed the use of its Facebook page and town Email account and debated the process by which emails and/or Facebook messages will be accepted and responded to. The Commission will draft an auto response to be used to respond to incoming communication.

6. Items Issues and Actions

a. Congressman John Lewis

Jack Evans made a motion to note the passing of John Lewis to honor his place in history. Motion was seconded by Maureen Raucci and Andy Gottlieb.

b. Restructuring the GHRC

Jo Keogh discussed the process of selecting a new member to fill the open Democratic seat on the Commission. In order to facilitate progress and assist the Commission in moving forward, Jo proposed holding 3 additional GHRC training meetings for members to be completed before its September regular monthly meeting.

The subjects of the addl meetings were proposed as follows:

- 1) Anti-bias training led by Marji Shapiro of the Anti Defamation League
- 2) Trauma informed training led by Jo Keogh
- 3) Working session on defining the Commission's Values and Beliefs

The Commission discussed the format and location of these meetings and how to schedule among members. Jo Keogh will follow up with Town Counsel to ensure these additional sessions are compliant with FOIA.

7. Next Actions

a. Jo Keogh will follow up with members on Doodle Poll to schedule the 3 additional training meetings.

b. Storm Isaias response by Eversource

Clarice Yasuhara proposed that the Commission reach out to local senators in support of residents regarding the rate hikes and power restoration issues experienced in the aftermath of the recent storm. The Commission discussed and Clarice will follow up with State Senators Cohen and Scanlon on a potential letter of support.

8. Adjournment

Jo Keogh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. Clarice Yasuhara seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Yue
Recording Secretary