



**Human Relations Commission
Meeting Notes**

March 28, 2022, 7:00 PM

Zoom Virtual Meeting

West Orange NJ 07052

*Building Our Awareness. Engaging Our Community. Creating Change for Greater Inclusion.
West Orange Township Human Relations Commission*

This is to inform the general public that this meeting is being held in compliance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975. The annual notice was emailed to the Star Ledger and filed in the Township Clerk's office on November 17, 2020 and published in the West Orange Chronicle on December 10, 2020.

1. Call to order at 7:20pm

HRC Attendance 2021

Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones, Commissioners Shannon Gattens, Dagmar Hobson, Dawn Adams, Patrecia West, Rabbi Rob Tobin, Elizabeth Milhim, and Dr. Joyce Harley; Township Council President Susan McCartney and Township Councilwoman Cindy Matute-Brown; HRC Secretary Caroline Harris; Volunteer Peter Kolbe; and Special Guest: Sandy Myers Grawert from the Jewish Federation of Greater Metrowest

2. Commissioners Check-In - "Rose and Thorn of the Month"

- Commissioners shared their roses and thorns of the month.

3. Acceptance of minutes of the last regular meeting of the Commission

- Commissioner Shannon Gattens motions and Commissioner Dr. Joyce Harley seconds to accept the minutes. All in favor.

3a. Acceptance and *(if necessary - discussion)* of Subcommittee Reports

- Subcommittee reports
 - o No reports this month.

4. Report - Chairperson Update

- Town Hall is now open to the public; revisit interest from Commissioners and Volunteers to return to in person meetings. Commissioners discussed.
 - Commissioner Shannon Gattens: Commit to having meetings on time if in person; Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones: Keep meetings 7-8:30pm.
 - Commissioner Dr. Joyce Harley: Can meetings be hybrid? Commissioner Shannon Gattens: Never had success with the technology in the meeting room. Township Council President Susan McCartney: Need a moderator; the conference room is the best space in Town Hall. Commissioner Dr. Joyce Harley: Prefers in person if the technology isn't viable; Township Council President Susan McCartney will check with the administrator.
 - Commissioner Patrecia West: Would the library work? Commissioner Dr. Joyce Harley: There might be other meetings held at the same time. Township Council President Susan McCartney: Meeting room works well; will check with David Cubie.
 - Commissioner Shannon Gattens and Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones to connect offline to organize in person and/or hybrid meetings.

- VOTE - In Person meetings with hybrid option starting 4/25: Commissioner Dr. Joyce Harley motions, Commissioner Shannon Gattens seconds. All in favor.

5. Old business

- St. Patrick's Day Parade debrief
 - Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones: Good representation from HRC (Commissioner Dawn Adams, Commissioner Patrecia West, Commissioner Commissioner Elizabeth Milhim, and Commissioner Asmeret Ghebremicael).
 - Commissioner Commissioner Elizabeth Milhim: Great event, rode in a convertible and drove with Congressman Donald Payne. Missing the HRC banner so no one knew they were there.
 - Commissioner Shannon Gattens: Discuss new promotional materials at the April meeting.
- Juneteenth Planning
 - Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones: Councilwoman Tammy Williams chairing the planning committee for the multi-day experience.
 - HRC role: Ceremony (flag raising and special speakers). Open to expanding contributions.
 - Sandy Myers Grawert from the Jewish Federation of Greater Metrowest - interested in partnering with HRC.
 - Sandy Myers Grawert: Community Relations committee works with Commissioner Rabbi Rob Tobin; anti-racism task force focused on social justice. Leading up to Juneteenth, working with "First Conversations" about how to talk to kids about race. Could direct people through the Federation to the town's Juneteenth events.
 - Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones to set up a meeting with a smaller group and Sandy Myers Grawert to talk through collaboration ideas.
 - Commissioner Dr. Joyce Harley: West Orange Arts Council participating with art exhibit open to the public. Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones Cubie offered to make the library available to the HRC, if needed.
 - Township Council President Susan McCartney: Commended Councilwoman Williams for coordinating the committee to organize the events.
 - Commissioner Shannon Gattens volunteered to coordinate logistics for day-of activities.
- Pride Planning
 - Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones: Set up offline conversation to bring back to the larger group.
 - Commissioner Dr. Joyce Harley, Commissioner Rabbi Rob Tobin, Asmeret, HRC Secretary Caroline Harris, Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones, Commissioner Shannon Gattens on pride
- One Community, Many Voices - Community Engagement series
 - HRC Secretary Caroline Harris provided an update; launching the program with West Orange Women's Club and United Asian Voices of West Orange.
 - HRC Secretary Caroline Harris to send out the planning document to the Commissioners, Township Council President Susan McCartney, and Township Councilwoman Cindy Matute-Brown to help fill out the calendar.
- Logo contest
 - Commissioner Shannon Gattens: Reconsider how we solicit for logos.
 - Commissioner Dr. Joyce Harley: West Orange Arts Council members willing to judge.
 - Township Council President Susan McCartney will share specific colors that need to be used.

6. New business

- Supporting UAV Event at the high school
 - Permitting for the HS
 - Support from HRC- volunteers, cross promotion.
 - Sunday, May 15th, 2pm to 6pm (rain date: Sunday, 5/22)
- Love and Unity Fest and Bike Ride

- May 7th
- Meeting format (PPT)

7. Other/Public Comment

- Women's History Month- women who were first in WO, we should do research and be accurate and this should be considered for next week.
- Commissioner Elizabeth Milhim is working on the Hatian flag raising. Mon May 16th or Tues May 17th, 6-8 pm. Force Foundation NJ.
- Spotlight posts- getting good traction. Some are still missing.
- International Festival- HRC was part of it at one point. The Board of OSPAC makes the decision about events. Bill Kehoe is the contact there.
- We should try and create a yearly calendar. Perhaps a meeting this summer could be a retreat where we plan the year. Commissioner Patrecia West is interested in being in a subcommittee.
- Next meeting: street fair- June 4th- at the next meeting. There will be a permitting process. Commissioner Patrecia West will get the application.
- Next meeting: New banner, shirts, etc.
- We should include budget allocation at the retreat.

8. Executive Session (if necessary)

9. Adjournment 8:41

10. **Future Meeting Dates:** 4/25, 5/23 – all at 7pm in person with a hybrid Zoom option

~ Fostering good will, cooperation and conciliation among groups in the Community ~