



Human Relations Commission Meeting Notes

April 25, 2022, 7:00 PM

In-person and Zoom Meeting

66 Main Street

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 7:19pm

[HRC Attendance 2022](#)

Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones, Commissioners Shannon Gattens, Reji George, Patrecia West, Elizabeth Milhim, Shakira Adams, Dawn Adams, Dagmar Hobson, and Rabbi Rob Tobin

Special Guest: Councilwoman Tammy Williams

Volunteers: Kanene Henry, Kimberly Hill, Peter Kolbe, Natacha Clesca, Caroline Harris

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 to approve the minutes; Commissioner Dawn Adams seconds; all in favor to approve the minutes.

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

- Subcommittee reports

4. Report - Chairperson Update

- Refer to old/new business updates below.

5. Old business

- Juneteenth Planning
 - Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones: HRC will lead efforts in the flag raising ceremony on Monday, June 20th at 10am through noon. Forthcoming meeting to plan.
 - Commissioner Patrecia West: There needs to be a balance between celebration and historical acknowledgement, because that is the way it was in Texas. Commissioners suggested the HRC host the kick-off before the weekend of events as opposed to closing out the weekend of events on Monday.
 - Vote: Commissioner Shannon Gattens motions to move the flag raising ceremony to Thursday, June

16th at 5pm; Commissioner Patrecia West seconds; all in favor.

- Kanene: Recommended a physical banner with a schedule of events to be placed in front of Town Hall. Commissioner Shannon Gattens/Commissioner Patrecia West to bring the suggestion to the Public Relations commission.
- Councilwoman Tammy Williams provided feedback on the new flag raising date and requested a conversation with Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones.
- **Pride Planning**
 - Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones: Event on Sunday, June 5th from 11-3pm; commence with a parade followed by a celebration with DJ, food trucks, etc.; need to get a budget and will vote over email.
 - Commissioner Dawn Adams: Working with WOPD Liaison on procuring items.
- **One Community, Many Voices - Community Engagement series**
 - Caroline Harris will send Commissioners revised email “ask” to local organizations requesting a calendar of events for the HRC to help promote/attend.
- **Logo contest**
 - Commissioner Elizabeth Milhim: Need to agree to a contest timeline. Commissioner Shannon Gattens: Logo needs to be approved by the mayor.
 - Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones: Suggestion to hold off since there was limited interest in this initiative.
 - Commissioner Patrecia West: Engage the schools later this Fall instead.
- **UAV Event at the high school**
 - AAPI Heritage Month festival on May 15th from 4-6pm.
 - Commissioner Dawn Adams: Offering volunteers; will email Caroline Harris.
- **Love and Unity Fest Bike Ride**
 - Bike Ride is on May 7th.
 - Festival is Saturday, May 21st from 12-7 at Edison Middle School. Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones: Will send out a sign up for table shifts (2-3 people per shift).
 - Ask of HRC: Help promote the event through social channels.
- **Hatian Flag Raising**
 - Commissioner Elizabeth Milhim: Flag Raising on Monday, May 16th at 6pm; library and HRC will have a table; may need speakers.
 - Natacha:
 - Will connect with Commissioner Elizabeth Milhim regarding the Flag Raising.
 - Prayer Vigil for Haiti and the Nations 2022: Will include other nations; asking for support from the HRC so the vigil can be hosted in WO on August 5th or 12th.
 - Commissioner Shannon Gattens: Happy to support the vigil if it’s at the same level as last year. Will include vigil on the agenda for next month.

6. New business

- **New banner, shirts**
 - Commissioners discussed the remaining budget for HRC event support materials, e.g. tablecloth, t-shirts, and posters.
 - Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones: Form a subcommittee; include Commissioner Patrecia West, Commissioner Elizabeth Milhim, and Commissioner Dawn Adams. Commissioner Shannon Gattens motions to spend up to \$500, Commissioner Dagmar Hobson seconds; all in favor.
- **Retreat planning - Tabled for May meeting.**
- **Holi Celebration- Kimberly Hill**
 - Attended a Holi Festival in Fairlawn and would like to host something similar in WO.
 - Volunteers Caroline Harris and Kimberly Hill will connect so she can help plan with the UAV.
 - Commissioner Elizabeth Milhim: Host a mini-Holi color activity at the HRC table at the Love+Unity Fest for an interactive introduction to upcoming events.
- **Israeli Flag Raising**

- Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones sent invitation to Commissioners for May 5th from 5-5:30pm at Town Hall.

7. Other/Public Comment

8. Executive Session (if necessary)

9. Adjournment at 9:00pm

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

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