

City of Keene
New Hampshire

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 3, 2020

5:00 PM

Library Booras Room

Members Present:

William Hay, Chair
Mohammed Saleh, Vice-Chair
Jennifer Carroll
Dottie Morris
Councilor Jan Manwaring

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities

Members Not Present:

Nancy Salwen
Sofia Cunha-Vasconcelos

1) Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair William Hay called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

2) Approval of January 6, 2020 Minutes

Shaun Filiault requested that he be noticed as Dr. Filiault (pg. 3) as he has a PhD. Mohammed Sales noted that he is also a Dr. The group also recognized Dottie Morris as a Dr. for future minutes. Jenna Carrol made a motion to accept the minutes of January 6 with a second by Dottie Morris. Passed unanimously.

3) Elections

Every year a Chair and Vice Chair are elected by the Committee members. Jenna Carroll made a motion to accept the current Chair William Hay and Vice Chair Mohammed Saleh. Dr. Morris seconded and the slate passed unanimously.

4) Finance Report

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities, stated that the Martin Luther King Event expenses included \$500 for the music of Annie Patterson and Peter Blood and \$477.27 for the refreshments, totaling \$977.27. The balance in the account is \$4097.43. He noted the annual

donation from the City of Keene of \$500 came in as income. Dr. Saleh made a motion to accept the Finance Report as given with a second by Dr. Morris. Passed unanimously.

5) Committee Discussion

a. Martin Luther King Breakfast Recap

Jan Manwaring suggested that next year beverages for children be included in the refreshments. Dr. Saleh stated that Nancy Salwen thought that the snacks contained too much sugar. Chair Hay said that Dottie Morris' speech was "over the top." There was agreement that it was a wonderful event and enjoyed by all. Dr. Saleh also thought that we should add free parking to the flyer next year as some folks put money in the meters. He asked about the Holiday, as many companies did not give it as a day off. It was noted that companies choose the Federal Holidays that they honor. Ms. Carrol noted that the State of New Hampshire did not honor MLK Day until 1999. It was considered Civil Rights Day from 1991 to 1999. The State Representative Harvey Key was instrumental in making that change in New Hampshire and he is still alive today; Dr. Morris said that he might be willing to give a talk, and he has some good stories.

b. Martin Luther King Event 2021

Consensus was to hold an event next year. Director Bohannon stated that the Colonial Theater is interested in collaborating with the Committee in 2021 to present an event honoring Dr. King. Vicki Pittman, Director of Education and Community Engagement, suggested featuring Joe Jencks, folk singer from the New York-New Jersey area. Dr. Morris spoke to local talent such as Evelyn Harris from the Hadley area or Samir Evans. It was decided that members would listen to the music of the two women and vote next month on the Committee's recommendation. Further, Director Bohannon and Dr. Morris would meet with Ms. Pittman to explore the collaboration for 2021. Finally, it was recognized that a financial contribution by the Committee would be included possibly up to \$1000.

c. Dr. Bettina Love at KSC

Dr. Morris stated that Dr. Love will be at Keene State College on Monday March 2 at 4PM. She is unsure of the location. The members suggested meeting at Keene State for the Committee meeting after the event. Dr. Morris will get the location and the location of a room for the Committee and forward it to Director Bohannon.

d. June Events

Director Bohannon suggested a June event honoring the LBGTQ Community in Railroad Square perhaps. Shaun Filiault stated that he thought that there was not enough time to organize a Pride Parade. He thought having a drag show and was willing to talk with former director Susan MacNeil from AIDS Services about participants in their last show. Director Bohannon will raise that with the Colonial. Other events suggested: Jenna Carroll said that showing the film

“Uprooted” about immigrants. The Historical Society has the movie that lasts about 30 minutes followed by a panel discussion. Dr. Morris stated that Brattleboro holds the LBGTQ Film Festival in June. She said that John Scagliotti, executive producer of “Before Stonewall” and then “After Stonewall.” Another suggestion was to contact area groups like PFLAG, and talk with them about possible events and/or collaborations.

6) New Business

a. Green Dot Training

Lesley Johnson, educator from Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention (MCVP), presented information about the Green Dot Program that focuses on training bystanders to do something when they see violence, harassment or intimidation. This program originated in Anchorage, Alaska. The CDC provided grants to four New Hampshire communities including Keene and Claremont. It covers a 1.5-hour overview followed by a 6-hour training. MCVP worked with Keene State College, Cheshire Medical Center and the Unitarian Church. Ms. Johnson estimated between 200 and 300 people were trained several years ago. Dr. Saleh asked about outcomes; Ms. Johnson suggested checking with the website altruistic.org located in Washington, D.C. for more information. She could check with MCVP about local statistics. Ms. Johnson stated that she was encouraged by the work of the Human Rights Committee and asked about collaborative effort regarding the Green Dot Program. The Committee will discuss this next month.

b. International Women’s Day, March 8th Potluck Luncheon

Ms. Carroll stated that the Historical Society in collaboration with the Keene India Association and Keene Parks and Recreation will hold on Sunday, March 8, at Cohen Hall of the Keene Public Library from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

c. Punjabi Musicians on Saturday, April 18 at the Keene Recreation Center

d. Shadows Fall North: A History of African Americans in New Hampshire

A collaboration between the Historical Society and Keene State College: Ms. Carroll handed out flyers for this event on Friday, February 28 from 1:30PM to 4:00PM which will include the film and discussion. It will be held at the Keene State College Science Building Room #101. The event is free but people are asked to register beforehand.

There being no further business, Chair Hay adjourned the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jan Manwaring, City Councilor

Edited BY KM on behalf of Andy Bohannon, Staff – 2/26/2020 at 3:00 PM