

City of Keene
New Hampshire

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Monday, September 14, 2020 at 5:00 PM
ZOOM Invite, Online Meeting

- Due to the COVID-2019 State of Emergency, this meeting will be conducted using the online meeting platform, Zoom. The public may view the meeting online by visiting: <https://us02web.zoom.us> and under "Join a Meeting" enter Meeting ID 897 0013 0425.
- If you are unable to attend the meeting online, you may call (603) 766-5646 and enter Participant Code 322029 to listen to the meeting.
- If you encounter any issues accessing this meeting, please call (603) 757-1835 during the meeting.

Members:

Bill Hay, Chair
Jennifer Carroll
Dr. Dottie Morris
Janis Manwaring
Dr. Mohammed Saleh
Nancy Salwen
Sofia Cunha-Vasconcelos
Dr. Shaun Filiault
Ritu Budakoti

Staff:

Andy Bohannon, PRF Director

Guests:

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Approval of August 3, 2020 Minutes
3. Mayor's Call for Board and Commission Nominations
4. Monadvocacy Continued Discussion
5. MLK Breakfast
6. June Events
7. New Business
8. Adjourn – Next Meeting Monday, October 5, 2020

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

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5 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

8 **Monday, August 3, 2020**

5:00 PM

Remote via Zoom

Members Present:

Jennifer Carroll
Dr. Mohammed Saleh, Vice Chair
Dr. Shaun Filiault
Janis Manwaring, Councilor
Sofia Cunha-Vasconcelos
Ritu Budakoti
Nancy Salwen
Dr. Dottis Morris

Staff Present:

Demitria Kirby, Youth Services Manager

Members Not Present:

William Hay, Chair

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12 **1) Welcome and Call to Order**
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14 Demitria Kirby, filling in for Andy Bohannon, conducted roll call. Vice Chair Saleh called the
15 meeting to order at 5:05 PM. He read a prepared statement explaining how the Emergency
16 Order #12, pursuant to Executive Order #2020-04 issued by the Governor of New Hampshire,
17 waives certain provisions of RSA 91-A (which regulates the operation of public body meetings)
18 during the declared COVID-19 State of Emergency.
19

20 Dr. Morris joined at 5:10 PM.
21

22 **2) Approval of July 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes**
23

24 Vice Chair Saleh asked if everyone reviewed the minutes. Councilor Manwaring made a motion
25 to approve the minutes of July 6, 2020. Dr. Morris seconded the motion, which passed by
26 unanimous roll call vote.
27

28 **3) Mayor's Call for Board and Commission Nominations**
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30 Vice Chair Salah stated that the meeting minutes detail Mayor Hansel's recommendation that the
31 HRC look at the different committees and see if the HRC has recommendations for names to fill
32 the vacancies. He asked if anyone has anything to share or thoughts on this topic. He does not
33 think the HRC needs to come up with recommended names today, but the Mayor wants them to
34 look at this. Discussion ensued. Ms. Cunha-Vasconcelos spoke about how the Mayor had
35 expressed the urgency of this task. Vice Chair Saleh asked Ms. Kirby if Mr. Bohannon gave her
36 any information about this to share with the HRC today. Ms. Kirby replied no, but she can relay
37 the message to him and he could bring information next time. Discussion continued about the
38 process. Vice Chair Saleh stated that the recommendations have to be made in the monthly
39 meeting, so the names are coming from the HRC as a group, not from individual members. Dr.
40 Morris asked if it is correct that the HRC cannot use email to talk with each other about this,
41 because group emails create a quorum. Dr. Filiault replied that Dr. Morris is correct that that is
42 not allowed, and yes, the recommendations should come from the full committee and not
43 individuals. He continued that given the expedited nature of this, they could consider calling a
44 special meeting in two weeks.

45

46 Vice Chair Saleh stated that they will seek guidance from Mr. Bohannon and once he confirms
47 the open positions the HRC should consider this as a priority action item. They will do it at the
48 next meeting unless they get a recommendation from the Mayor's Office that they need to do it
49 sooner. That sounds like a reasonable plan. He asked if anyone had any other comments before
50 they move on.

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52 **4) Monadvocacy Continued Discussion**

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54 Vice Chair Saleh stated that at the last meeting Pastor Nic Penaranda gave a wonderful
55 presentation on a social game she created to educate people about challenges people face based
56 on their social positions in life. He continued that the HRC discussed multiple possibilities for
57 bringing her and the game to Keene. They did not take any concrete action on this. He asked if
58 anyone has any more information about this and if anyone has talked about a development on
59 this issue. He asked if Dr. Morris has anything to add, since she was considering Ms.
60 Penaranda's game for her students. Dr. Morris replied that she does not have any updates about
61 this; they were thinking of maybe having Ms. Penaranda come in, say, a year.

62

63 Ms. Salwen stated that she thought that the way it was left was Ms. Penaranda was about to do
64 her first online version of the game and she was going to get back to someone and share about
65 whether it was successful or not, and if so, she was going to explore the possibility of having
66 more online sessions of it for people to play. Vice Chair Saleh replied that he thinks Mr.
67 Bohannon was the one she was going to give the update to. They should ask him for an update
68 next time. Ms. Cunha-Vasconcelos stated that they had a bunch of ideas for people to participate
69 but were limited by COVID-19 and talked about how they could not do much until the pandemic
70 was over. Ms. Kirby stated that Mr. Bohannon reached out to Ms. Penaranda to see how the
71 online game went and to discuss whether she was open to coming to Keene and he is awaiting a
72 response.

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5) MLK Breakfast

Vice Chair Saleh stated that there was talk about trying to do something differently here with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast event. He continued that multiple ideas were presented and they are still developing a concrete idea about this. He asked if anyone had thoughts to share.

Ms. Cunha-Vasconcelos asked if they discussed the possibility that the breakfast event would also be impacted by COVID-19 and it might be a virtual event. Discussion ensued. Dr. Filiault spoke of the need for the HRC to create subcommittees to move forward with planning either a socially-distanced (in person) or online event, if they still want to do this. Ms. Kirby stated that Mr. Bohannon’s suggestion was to try and decide on virtual or in person, and think about a speaker, and yes, that could be accomplished through a subcommittee.

Dr. Filiault made a motion for the HRC to nominate a subcommittee to create a Martin Luther King, Jr. event for 2021, which will be a virtual event on Zoom or Facebook Live, and that the subcommittee be tasked with selecting an appropriate speaker. Councilor Manwaring seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Vice Chair Saleh asked who wants to be on the subcommittee. Discussion ensued about how big the subcommittee should be, and who would be on it. Dr. Filiault reminded the group that it needs to be less than a quorum and he recommends it have only three people. After further discussion, Dr. Filiault, Dr. Morris, and Ms. Salwen joined the subcommittee. Dr. Morris clarified that she is unable to chair the subcommittee. Chair Manwaring stated that her view of the subcommittee’s task is to propose an “agenda” of what the event might look like and bring that back to the full committee for the final decisions. She continued that the subcommittee is not expected to plan every little part. Vice Chair Saleh agreed.

6) June Events

Vice Chair Saleh asked to hear from Dr. Filiault. Dr. Filiault stated that the HRC has not been making progress with this by discussing it in meetings, so he again thinks there should be a subcommittee for this. He is hopeful that the June events can be live, which would be a mixed event for LGBTQ+ Pride and Juneteenth.

Dr. Filiault made a motion for the HRC to create a subcommittee to plan for mixed event(s) for LGBTQ Pride month and Juneteenth, with the aim to have the events be live (as opposed to virtual), for June 2021. Vice Chair Saleh seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Vice Chair Saleh asked who wants to be on this subcommittee. Discussion ensued. Dr. Filiault, Councilor Manwaring, and Ms. Cunha-Vasconcelos stated that they will join. Ms. Carroll stated

115 that she would love to help with this without serving on the subcommittee, due to her other
116 commitments.

117
118 Vice Chair Saleh asked that the subcommittees give a report at the next HRC meeting about how
119 the work is going. Ms. Salwen asked how the subcommittees meet/get started. Dr. Filiault
120 replied that subcommittee members can now email each other because it is less than a quorum.

121
122 **7) New Business**

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124 Ms. Budakoti stated that as a new member, she suggests that it would be helpful for the
125 committee to have some sort of orientation. She continued that this would help new members
126 understand what the events they are talking about are, so the new members can better decide
127 what to volunteer to help with. Vice Chair Saleh replied that that is a good point and probably
128 true of all the City committees. He spoke of how he felt similarly the first year he was on the
129 committee, regarding the MLK breakfast event. He asked Ms. Kirby to pass along to Mr.
130 Bohannon that they would like Mr. Bohannon to provide new members with a broad summary of
131 the committee's goals, existing events, and possible future events.

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133 Ms. Kirby stated that that if Ms. Budakoti visits the HRC's webpage, it talks about the goals of
134 the committee but not the history, direction, or vision. Councilor Manwaring stated that the
135 committee has never had an orientation for new members, but when she was new she caught up
136 by reading all of the committee's meeting minutes from the past year, which are on the HRC's
137 page on the City's website.

138
139 Vice Chair Saleh stated that part of the reason the committee is made up of a diverse group of
140 people is so they are not bound by only what the committee has always done before. He
141 continued that they should always share their ideas with each other and it is possible for them to
142 expand what they do.

143
144 **8) Adjourn – Next meeting is Monday, September 8 or 14, 2020 (Labor Day 9/7)**

145
146 Ms. Kirby stated that Mr. Bohannon wants to know when the committee wants to meet next
147 month, September 8 or 14, because Labor Day is September 9 and that would have been their
148 regularly-scheduled meeting day. Discussion ensued. The group decided on Monday,
149 September 14.

150
151 There being no further business, Vice Chair Saleh adjourned the meeting at 6:00 PM.

152
153 Respectfully submitted by,
154 Britta Reida, Minute Taker

7/1/19- 6/30/20	HRC	KIF	7/1/20- 6/30/21	HRC	KIF	7/1/21- 6/30/22	HRC	KIF
Balance 7/1/19	\$ 4,574.70	\$ -	Balance 7/1/20	\$ 4,097.43	\$ 3,411.00	Balance 7/1/21	\$ 4,597.43	\$ 3,411.00
Income			Income			Income		
		\$ 2,000.00						
City of Keene	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,500.00	City of Keene	\$ 500.00		City of Keene	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00		\$ -			\$ -	
		\$ 500.00						
		\$ 247.83						
		\$ 100.00						
subtotal	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,347.83	subtotal	\$ 500.00	\$ -	subtotal	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,347.83	Total Income	\$ 500.00	\$ -	Total Income	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses			Expenses			Expenses		
International Festival	\$ -	\$ 2,936.83		\$ -			\$ -	
Annie Patterson	\$ 500.00							
KSC Dining	\$ 477.27							
Total Expenses	\$ 977.27	\$ 2,936.83	Total Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	Total Expenses	\$ -	\$ -
Net 19-20	\$ (477.27)	\$ 3,411.00	Net 20-21	\$ 500.00	\$ -	Net 21-22	\$ -	\$ -
Balance on hand	\$ 4,097.43	\$ 3,411.00	Balance on hand	\$ 4,597.43	\$ 3,411.00	Balance on hand	\$ 4,597.43	\$ 3,411.00