

**City of Keene**  
**New Hampshire**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

Monday, May 3, 2021 at 5:00 PM  
ZOOM Invite, Online Meeting

- Due to the COVID State of Emergency, this meeting will be conducted using the online meeting platform, Zoom. The public may view the meeting online at [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) and click on “Join A Meeting” enter Meeting ID 838 4094 3157
- To listen to the meeting, please dial (646) 876-9923 and when prompted enter Meeting ID 838 4094 3157
- If you encounter issues accessing this meeting, please call (603) 757-1835 during the meeting

Members:

William Hay, Chair  
Dr. Dottie Morris  
Janis Manwaring  
Dr. Mohammed Saleh  
Nancy Salwen  
Sofia Cunha-Vasconcelos  
Dr. Shaun Filiault  
Ritu Budakoti  
Marti Fiske

Staff:

Andy Bohannon, PRF Director

Guests:

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Approval of April 5 & 12, 2021 Minutes
3. Finance Report
4. Pride Month
5. Juneteenth
6. Library ALA Grant
7. New, Other Business
8. Adjourn – Next Meeting Monday, June 7, 2021 at 5:00 PM

More Time: Keene State College Outreach

**City of Keene**  
**New Hampshire**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, April 5, 2021**

**5:00 PM**

**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

**Members Present:**

Dr. Mohammad Saleh  
Shaun Filiault  
Sofia Cunha-Vasconcelos  
Marti Fiske  
Councilor Jan Manwaring  
Ritu Budakoti  
Nancy Salwen  
Dr. Dottie Morris

**Staff Present:**

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,  
Recreation & Facilities

**Members Not Present:**

William Hay, Chair

**1) Welcome and Call to Order**

Dr. Saleh called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM and read the Executive Order from the Governor of the State of NH authorizing a remote meeting during the Covid-19 State of Emergency. Mr. Bohannon conducted roll call.

**2) Minutes – March 1, 2021**

Corrections: in line 32 change. "He continued that heard..." to, "He continued that he heard..."  
In line 71, change "UNH" to "USNH."

Councilor Manwaring moved to approve the minutes of March 1, 2021 as amended, which Dr. Morris seconded, and the motion passed with unanimous roll call vote in favor.

**3) Finance Report**

Mr. Bohannon presented the current budget as informational. As occurs every few years, he said that the finances were audited and a corrected budget would be presented at the next meeting reflecting a tent deposit and a few expenses in 2020 related to the International Festival.

**4) Pride Month**

During the previous month, Mr. Filiault reported receiving no follow-up to his communications with the Monadnock International Film Festival (MONIFF). Mr. Bohannon had a meeting with MONIFF before this one related to another project and he suggested it was a good time to reach out again. Mr. Filiault thought the date would have to change at this point because of this delay. Potentially there could be a live event later this summer.

**5) Juneteenth**

The subcommittee would be meeting via Zoom on April 6 at 7:00 PM. Ms. Salwen would join. Councilor Manwaring hoped to begin working on a "save the date" flyer at this meeting. The Councilor also reached out to Jenna at the Historical Society, who is considering inviting an impersonator of Ona Judge, one of George Washington's escaped slaves. Additionally, Gail Zachariah at the Library suggested the film Miss Juneteenth and Councilor Manwaring would discuss it more with her.

**6) Library ALA Grant**

**7) New, Other Business**

**8) Adjourn – Next Meeting Monday, May 3, 2021**

Due to technical error, the meeting ended at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Katie Kibler, Minute Taker

Edits submitted by,  
Andy Bohannon, PRF Director

1 City of Keene  
2 New Hampshire

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5 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE  
6 MEETING MINUTES  
7

8 **Monday, April 12, 2021**

**5:00 PM**

**Remotely via Zoom**

**Members Present:**

Councilor Jan Manwaring  
Dr. Shaun Filiault  
Nancy Salwen  
Sofia Cunha-Vasconcelos  
Dr. Mohammed Saleh, Vice Chair  
Dr. Dottie Morris

**Staff Present:**

Andrew Bohannon, Parks, Recreation, and  
Facilities Director

**Members Not Present:**

Ritu Budakoti  
William Hay, Chair  
Marti Fiske

9  
10 Vice Chair Saleh read a prepared statement explaining how the Emergency Order #12, pursuant  
11 to Executive Order #2020-04 issued by the Governor of New Hampshire, waives certain  
12 provisions of RSA 91-A (which regulates the operation of public body meetings) during the  
13 declared COVID-19 State of Emergency.

14  
15 **1) Welcome and Call to Order**

16  
17 Vice Chair Saleh called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. Roll call was conducted.

18  
19 Mr. Bohannon stated that agenda items 2) and 3) were addressed at the HRC meeting last month,  
20 so they can go right to 4).

21  
22 **2) Approval of March 1, 2021 Minutes**

23  
24 **3) Finance Report**

25  
26 **4) Pride Month**

27  
28 Dr. Filiault reported that he and Mr. Bohannon were able to get in touch with the Monadnock  
29 International Film Festival (MONIFF) this week. He continued that MONIFF selected a film for  
30 the HRC to screen during Pride month, related to the current state of transgender rights in the  
31 United States. That is a powerful issue to address. He is working on getting a speaker for the

32 discussion following the film, which could potentially be at a local business that has a large open  
33 space for a hybrid in-person/Zoom event. MONIFF will soon give the HRC a preview copy of  
34 the film so they can watch it to make sure it is one they want to present, but it has had great  
35 critical reception.

36

37 Dr. Filiault continued that they also want to hold the event in June instead of May, to have more  
38 time to pull everything together. He asked if Mr. Bohannon had anything to add. Mr. Bohannon  
39 replied that they need to choose a date. He continued that the idea is to show the film for a  
40 couple days and then have the discussion. Dr. Filiault replied that he and Ms. Cunha-  
41 Vasconcelos had talked some about a date in June.

42

43 Ms. Cunha-Vasconcelos stated that the first three weekends in June already have community  
44 events planned/are occupied. Discussion ensued about when to show the movie. Mr. Bohannon  
45 suggested a mid-week showing, so it does not conflict with a weekend event. Dr. Filiault  
46 suggested the end of the month, and questioned whether people would watch a movie on a  
47 weekday evening. Vice Chair Saleh stated that the days are longest in June or July so that is a  
48 good time. Mr. Bohannon suggested that when they get the release and preview the film, they  
49 could pick a date from there, based on how long it takes to watch and who Dr. Filiault may have  
50 found to be a speaker and how long they think the discussion might be. Dr. Filiault replied that  
51 is fine, but they need to pick a date soon so they can publicize the event. Mr. Bohannon replied  
52 that he expects they will have the film access in a week or two and they would be able to have  
53 everything done before the next meeting. Vice Chair Saleh asked if a quorum needs to be  
54 present to finalize the date. Mr. Bohannon replied no, the subcommittee can pick a date and  
55 report out.

56

## 57 **5) Juneteenth**

58

59 Councilor Manwaring reported that the subcommittee is looking at three things: food, music, and  
60 history. She continued that right now they really need help with the music; they are not having  
61 any luck reaching out and finding Black musicians. The ones they have contacted are already  
62 booked. The subcommittee is open to ideas and hoping other HRC members have contacts.  
63 They are trying to finalize it this month so they can get the publicity out.

64

65 Ms. Cunha-Vasconcelos stated that as an overall picture, things are starting to come together.  
66 They have the outline of the program – two musical performances; with speakers before, during,  
67 and after. They need to meet with the City to discuss a few things. They also want to have a  
68 voter registration table. They have connected with the group that did a Juneteenth event last  
69 year, and they are giving the subcommittee good names for speakers and possibly poets. Work  
70 has begun with local restaurants.

71

72 Ms. Salwen stated that the subcommittee's next meeting is on Monday. She continued that it is  
73 starting to come together, and they are working on a "save the date" announcement to go up on  
74 the City calendar to start getting people interested and engaged.

75

76 Discussion ensued about the search for musicians. Committee members asked questions about  
77 where the subcommittee has looked so far and who they have talked with. Committee members  
78 and Mr. Bohannon gave suggestions for who else to consider. Discussion ensued about the  
79 possibility of a drum circle.

80

81 Discussion ensued about finances and the HRC's budget. Councilor Manwaring spoke about the  
82 subcommittee's belief that it is important to pay performers. Mr. Bohannon encouraged the  
83 subcommittee to pursue sponsorships.

84

85 **6) Library ALA Grant**

86

87 Mr. Bohannon stated that Marti Fiske was not able to attend the meeting tonight, but in the  
88 agenda packet he included flyers for the Community Conversations from the Libraries  
89 Transforming Communities grant, which is the ALA grant the Keene Public Library received.  
90 He continued that it has upcoming dates for different discussions (on race and social justice).  
91 The first one was very well attended with 123 participants. He listed the upcoming dates and  
92 topics/books. Dr. Morris stated that *The Fire Next Time*, by James Baldwin, is very good.

93

94 Mr. Bohannon stated that it is their job, as the Human Rights Committee, to help promote these  
95 events, and he encouraged the committee to please spread the word and share the events on  
96 social media. He continued that along with the Community Conversations information, Ms.  
97 Fiske is sending out information on eight different books on anti-racism that the KPL has  
98 acquired, to increase people's access to anti-racist resources, which was part of the Ad Hoc  
99 Racial Justice and Community Safety Committee (AHRJCS)'s report and recommendations. At  
100 one of the AHRJCS meetings, someone pledged \$500 to purchase more books on the subject  
101 matter for the community and the KPL has done that. Mr. Bohannon encouraged the HRC  
102 members to check out those books and let people know that the KPL is a great resource for  
103 exploring this topic.

104

105 Vice Chair Saleh asked if the events are remote or in-person. Mr. Bohannon replied that they are  
106 all remote. Vice Chair Saleh asked if these KPL events are posted on the bulletin boards in the  
107 City Hall lobby, because a lot of people go there. Mr. Bohannon replied that if they are not  
108 already posted there, they will be.

109

110 **7) New, Other Business**

111

112 Councilor Manwaring stated that she has been doing a lot of reading in preparation for  
113 Juneteenth and would really like to see the HRC do something for Indigenous People's Day,  
114 which was formerly Columbus Day. She continued that it is in October, and they do not need to  
115 do anything about it today, but she pictures something similar to what they did for Martin Luther  
116 King, Jr. Day. She would like the HRC to think about this. Indigenous people were treated so  
117 horribly and it is important to do something.

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Dr. Morris reported that tomorrow night, as part of the Remembering to Heal series, there will be a speaker who is an Indigenous woman, speaking on the topic of trauma and the idea that memory can help repair trauma to some degree. She continued that it is hard to fully explain but relates to the concept of validation. Remembering trauma experienced by Indigenous people or people of color, and validating it instead of denying that it happened, helps with the healing. It is tomorrow night at 7:00 PM and free and you can register at her website or the Cohen Center’s website.

Ms. Salwen stated that a book by Louise Erdrich she just finished reading talked about the Trump Administration’s threat to the Wampanoag tribe. She continued that is current, and the Wampanoag people are local, and she does not know much about it but if the HRC is going to do something for Indigenous People’s Day this is something they could learn about. Dr. Morris replied that they could talk with people at the NH Intertribal Native American Council, such as Denise and Paul Pouliot. She briefly spoke more about their work.

Vice Chair Saleh asked if Mr. Bohannon could add Indigenous People’s Day to next month’s agenda. Mr. Bohannon replied yes, that is a great idea. He continued that they could do something similar to what they did for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Vice Chair Saleh asked if there is any other new business. Mr. Bohannon stated that the AHRJCS Committee, which Dr. Morris was a part of, has submitted their 11-page report and it is on the City’s website on the AHRJCS Committee page under the “Boards and Commissions” tab. He continued that he has asked them to also link it on the HRC’s webpage. Actions are already being taken as a result of this subcommittee so he thanks Dr. Morris and everyone on that committee for their amazing work. Dr. Morris replied that it was an amazing group of people and she cannot say enough about (the committee’s staff liaison) Rebecca Landry.

Vice Chair Saleh asked Mr. Bohannon to email the link to the report to the committee. Mr. Bohannon replied that he will, and he will also add it to the May agenda. He continued that eventually, many of the AHRJCS Committee’s action items will come to the HRC’s plate.

**8) Adjourn – Next Meeting Monday, May 3, 2021 at 5:00 PM**

There being no further business, Vice Chair Saleh adjourned the meeting at 5:52 PM.

ACRONYM Meeting Minutes  
Month Date, Year

156 **More time:**  
157 **Keene State College Outreach**  
158  
159 Respectfully submitted by,  
160 Britta Reida, Minute Taker  
161  
162 Edits submitted by,  
163 Andy Bohannon, PRF Director



7/1/19- 6/30/20	HRC	KIF	7/1/20- 6/30/21	HRC	KIF	7/1/21- 6/30/22	HRC	KIF
<b>Balance 7/1/19</b>	\$ 4,574.00	\$ -	<b>Balance 7/1/20</b>	\$ 4,096.73	\$ 2,034.00	<b>Balance 7/1/21</b>	\$ 4,596.73	\$ 2,861.89
	This was entered at 4574.70							
<b>Income</b>			<b>Income</b>			<b>Income</b>		
KIF - C&S		\$ 2,000.00						
KIF - Gallup	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	City of Keene	\$ 500.00		City of Keene		
KIF - SBW	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00		\$ -			\$ -	
KIF- Alexander		\$ 500.00						
KIF - CC Literacy		\$ 247.83	KIF - Alexander		\$ 1,000.00			
KIF - Fenton		\$ 100.00						
City of Keene	\$ 500.00							
subtotal	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,347.83	subtotal	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	subtotal	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,347.83	<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	<b>Total Income</b>	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Expenses</b>			<b>Expenses</b>			<b>Expenses</b>		
International Festival	\$ -	\$ 2,265.34	International Festival	\$ -	\$ 172.11		\$ -	
KIF - PD Detail		\$ 671.49						
KIF - Tents Deposit		\$ 697.00						
Kif - Elegant Settings		\$ 680.00						
Peter Blood	\$ 500.00							
KSC Dining	\$ 477.27							
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 977.27	\$ 4,313.83	<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ -	\$ 172.11	<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Net 19-20</b>	\$ (477.27)	\$ 2,034.00	<b>Net 20-21</b>	\$ 500.00	\$ 827.89	<b>Net 21-22</b>	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Balance on hand</b>	\$ 4,096.73	\$ 2,034.00	<b>Balance on hand</b>	\$ 4,596.73	\$ 2,861.89	<b>Balance on hand</b>	\$ 4,596.73	\$ 2,861.89