

City of Keene
New Hampshire

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Monday, November 6, 2023 at 5:00 PM
Room 22 Upstairs, Recreation Center

Members:

Sofia Cunha-Vasconcelos
Dr. Dottie Morris
Janis Manwaring
Dr. Mohammad Saleh
Marti Fiske
Hunter Kirschner
Rabbi Daniel Aronson
Councilor Catherine Workman
Gina Burke

Staff:

Andy Bohannon, PRF Director
Alyssa Bender, Youth Services Manager

Alternates:

Todd Benson
Ritu Budakoti
Jennifer Nascimento

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Approval of October 2, 2023 Minutes
3. Finance Report
4. Monadnock Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Coalition Updates
5. Racial Justice Community Safety Report
6. Acceptance of Committee Event Reports
 - a. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 - b. Black History Month
 - c. Juneteenth
 - d. Keene International Festival
 - e. Indigenous Peoples' Day
 - f. Pride Event
7. New Business
8. Adjourn – Next Meeting Monday, December 4, 2023 at 5:00 PM

Tabled: Community Survey

“In our efforts to create a more equal and just society, we move forward with the firm intention to value the voices, opinions, and experiences of all people. We choose to proceed with the awareness and humility that the statements and decisions we make will have a different impact for those with different life experiences.”

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

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5 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Monday, October 2, 2023

5:00 PM

Room 22,
Recreation Center

Members Present:

Sofia Cunha-Vasconcelos, Chair
Hunter Kirschner, Vice Chair
Dr. Mohammad Saleh
Marti Fiske
Rabbi Daniel Aronson
Gina Burke
Tedd Benson, Alternate
Dr. Dottie Morris (arrived at 5:19 PM)
Councilor Catherine Workman (arrived at 5:11 PM)

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Parks, Recreation & Facilities
Director
Alyssa Bender, Youth Services Manager

Members Not Present:

Jan Manwaring
Ritu Budakoti, Alternate
Heidi Schwieger, Alternate
Jennifer Nescimento, Alternate

8
9
10 **1) Welcome and Call to Order**

11
12 Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos read the HRC's statement: *"In our efforts to create a more equal and*
13 *just society, we move forward with the firm intention to value the voices, opinions, and*
14 *experiences of all people. We choose to proceed with the awareness and humility that the*
15 *statements and decisions we make will have a different impact for those with different life*
16 *experiences."*

17
18 Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Roll call was conducted.

19
20 **2) Approval of September 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

21
22 Rabbi Aronson made a motion to approve the minutes of September 11, 2023. Dr. Saleh
23 seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.
24

25 **3) Finance Report**

26

27 Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos asked if Mr. Bohannon was able to do the updates he had discussed.
28 Mr. Bohannon replied yes, he thinks so. Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos stated that it looks like
29 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is in good financial shape. She continued that she does not see
30 anything of concern in the finance report. She asked if anyone had questions about it or things to
31 discuss.

32

33 Ms. Fiske asked Mr. Bohannon about how to put in a request for payment, regarding paying the
34 Indigenous People’s Day panelists. Mr. Bohannon replied that she can send him an invoice.

35

36 **4) Monadnock Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Coalition**

37

38 Dr. Saleh gave the HRC an update on what has been happening with the Coalition, creating a
39 document of the group’s mission and goals. Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos asked him to bring a
40 copy to the next HRC meeting, if he can, or share it with Mr. Bohannon for him to distribute.

41

42 **5) Racial Justice and Community Safety Committee Report**

43

44 Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos stated that there is no status change. She continued that Mr.
45 Bohannon has this action item, and he can update them next month.

46

47 **6) Acceptance of Committee Event Reports**

48

A) Indigenous People’s Day

49

50 Ms. Fiske gave an update about the upcoming Indigenous People’s Day event, a film screening
51 at the Library. She stated that she sent the flyer to the HRC. She spoke about the
52 filmmakers/people involved with the film who will be panelists at the event, paid with the HRC’s
53 funds. She asked the HRC members to share the event information on social media.

54

55 Councilor Workman arrived at 5:11 PM.

56

57 Dr. Saleh thanked Ms. Fiske for organizing this. He asked if Mr. Bohannon knows if there will
58 be a declaration at City Hall. Mr. Bohannon replied that he does not know, but can find out. Dr.
59 Saleh asked if there is anything else happening in town for the holiday, other than what the HRC
60 is doing. Ms. Fiske shared information about another Indigenous film another group is screening
61 locally. Ms. Burke asked the HRC members if they think there should be more happening for
62 Indigenous People’s Day, and whether it is the HRC’s responsibility to help make that happen.
63 Discussion ensued.

64

65 **B) Pride Event**

66

67 Mr. Kirschner gave an update about the Pride event that is two weeks away, a film screening at
68 Keene State College. He listed the confirmed partners who are helping promote the event, spoke
69 about the promotion he is doing, and asked the HRC members to help share the information on
70 social media. He gave information about the coordinated programs that will be occurring with
71 local schools.

72

73 **C) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

74

75 Rabbi Aronson reported that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day working group met recently. He
76 gave an update about the event planning, stated that Father Gregg Boyle from Los Angeles is
77 available and agreed to come speak at the event. The working group is discussing how to fit him
78 into a broader program. They have some ambitious ideas. Discussion ensued about potential
79 venues. Ms. Fiske recommended the Library. Rabbi Aronson replied that KSC is another
80 option. In response to HRC members' questions, Rabbi Aronson spoke more about Father
81 Boyle's organization and his work to prevent gang violence/help gang members develop positive
82 skills and community connections.

83

84 Dr. Morris arrived at 5:19 PM.

85

86 **D) Black History Month**

87

88 Dr. Morris updated the group on the planning for a Black History Month event, on a to-be-
89 determined date in February. It will be a performance by musical artist Crys Matthews, whose
90 music has a social justice/civil rights flavor. She continued that she is working on something
91 else for Black History Month with someone at KSC and will have more information about that
92 another time.

93

94 **E) Juneteenth**

95

96 Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos reported that the Juneteenth working group has their first meeting this
97 month, to start planning next year's event.

98

99 **F) Keene International Festival (KIF)**

100

101 Mr. Kirschner gave an update on the KIF, which he served as an emcee for. He spoke about how
102 the event went very well. Mr. Bohannon added that they received a lot of positive feedback
103 about the event being held indoors this time, which was surprising to the working group and they
104 are discussing the setup. They have some good ideas lined up for next year. Discussion
105 ensued.

106

107 Rabbi Aronson asked about the expenditures, and Mr. Bohannon replied that the finance report
108 has not been updated yet. Discussion continued.

109

110 **7) New Business**

111

112 Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos invited public input. Keene resident Nancy spoke to the HRC about
113 her ideas on becoming a community reporter about various meetings happening around the City.

114

115 Jay Kahn stated that he is a candidate for Mayor. He stated that he is interested in the HRC and
116 wants to see the issues they are grappling with. He spoke about his interest in increasing the
117 community’s readiness for accommodating immigrants and refugees.

118

119 Mr. Kirschner asked if the HRC is aware of the new Flash Vote platform that the City has rolled
120 out, an entry point for increased civic engagement, which is great. He continued that however,
121 the platform requires new users to list a gender, categorized as “sex,” and the only two options
122 are “male” and “female.” It seems like a needless barrier. Rabbi Aronson stated that he is not
123 familiar with Flash Vote. Mr. Bohannon explained that it is an online platform the City is using
124 for various projects; it is a survey tool that asks up to five questions at a time and can be related
125 to any project the City wants public input on. He gave more information about how it works and
126 gave examples of projects it is being used for and how helpful it is. Discussion ensued about
127 Flash Vote, including questions of whether the City could adjust the demographic questions to
128 eliminate the gender question, and ideas about how the platform could be used to help the HRC
129 with a community survey. Mr. Bohannon stated that he will email Rebecca Landry to inquire.

130

131 **8) Adjourn – Next Meeting November 6, 2023 at 5:00 PM**

132

133 There being no further business, Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos adjourned the meeting at 5:49 PM.

134

135 Respectfully submitted by,
136 Britta Reida, Minute Taker

137

138 Reviewed and edited by,
139 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
Balance 7/1/19	\$ 4,574.00	\$ -	Balance 7/1/20	\$ 4,096.73	\$ 3,411.00	Balance 7/1/21	\$ 3,591.88	\$ 3,985.44
This was entered at 4574.70								
Income			Income			Income		
City of Keene	\$ 500.00		City of Keene	\$ 500.00		City of Keene	\$ 500.00	
Donations KIF		\$ 6,847.83	Donations KIF		\$ -	DONATIONS KIF		\$ 8,012.00
subtotal	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,847.83	subtotal	\$ 500.00	\$ -	subtotal	\$ 500.00	\$ 8,012.00
Total Income	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,847.83	Total Income	\$ 500.00	\$ -	Total Income	\$ 500.00	\$ 8,012.00
Expenses			Expenses			Expenses		
International Festival		\$ 3,436.83	International Festival		\$ 869.11	International Festival		\$ 6,345.70
			Pride Flags - 15	\$ 104.85		Pride Month	\$ -	
			Juneteenth Presenters \$200	\$ 600.00		Juneteenth	\$ 1,100.00	
			Steve Schuch			Upstream Sound \$700		
			Hadi Lanceric			Jalissa Rodriguez \$200		
			Jonah Wheeler			Woullard - Lett \$200		
			Jalissa Rodriguez					
			Amina Jordan-Mendez	\$ 300.00				
Martin Luther King Day			Martin Luther King Day	\$ -		Martin Luther King Day	\$ -	
Peter Blood	\$ 500.00		Dr. Jim Waller					
KSC Dining	\$ 477.27							
Total Expenses	\$ 977.27	\$ 3,436.83	Total Expenses	\$ 1,004.85	\$ 869.11	Total Expenses	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 6,345.70
Net 19-20	\$ (477.27)	\$ 3,411.00	Net 20-21	\$ (504.85)	\$ (869.11)	Net 21-22	\$ (600.00)	\$ 1,666.30
Balance on hand	\$ 4,096.73	\$ 3,411.00	Balance on hand	\$ 3,591.88	\$ 2,541.89	Balance on hand	\$ 2,991.88	\$ 5,651.74

