

Laconia Human Relations Committee
Monthly Meeting
March 13, 2023 - Monday
3:30pm – 5:00pm
City Hall Rm 200A also via Zoom

Agenda

Welcome and Roll Call

Review and Acceptance of February 13th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Work Groups

- MLK Celebration Review
- Multicultural Festival

Old Business

- Welcome Stickers
- Genocide Awareness - Yom HaShoah
 - Celebration with Temple B’Nai Israel – Sat. May 6th 4pm
- Looking forward – 2023 (see attached vision & mission)

New Business

- Banners on City Hall – see attached discussion paper
- Other business
- Next Meeting Room 200A, Monday April 10, 2023, at 3:30pm also via Zoom

Public Comment –

The public is invited to offer their opinions. Initially, they will be limited to four minutes until all have had an opportunity to speak. Each person is constrained to their time period or to ask questions of the committee. Everyone is expected to speak respectfully.

If on Zoom, the public will be visible but muted until unmuted by the chair. Members of the public wishing to speak will use the “raise hand” option.

Note: The meeting will also be held online through Zoom and will begin at 3:30pm although people are encouraged check in early. Contact David Stamps, 387-4382 if you are having trouble connecting.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

Topic: Human Relations Commission

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81922296874?pwd=M0E4a1pES0VGV0Rsa1hmTOZDU3Bmdz09>

Passcode: 793636

Or One tap mobile :

US: +16465588656,,81922296874#,,,,*793636# or +13017158592,,81922296874#,,,,*793636#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 819 2229 6874

Passcode: 793636

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81922296874>

LACONIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Vision & Mission

Approved 12-17-2019

Vision:

The Laconia Human Relations Committee envisions a world where everyone is treated with dignity, fairness, respect, and kindness.

Mission Statement:

The Committee shall strive to:

- a) Cultivate a community-wide climate that does not tolerate prejudice of any kind which undermines the dignity of any person.
- b) Engage every individual, group and organization in Laconia in support of our vision.
- c) Educate ourselves and our children about the presence and dehumanizing impact of any prejudicial attitudes that are currently at work in our community.
- d) Promote, in as many segments of our community life as is possible, policies and practices which encourage equal opportunity through equity and justice for all.
- e) Proactively resist and publicly condemn any practices or incidents in our community which either result from or might encourage prejudice, intolerance, harassment and discrimination.

Objectives:

The Committee shall:

- a) Educate about and establish a comfort level with the changing face of our community by working with individuals, City Council, business groups, service, health and educational institutions.
- b) Actively pursue the prevention of prejudice, intolerance, harassment and discrimination in our community through public discourse, media exposure, community action and education on these issues.
- c) Create programs and initiatives in furtherance of our vision such as the Welcoming Laconia Initiative, the Laconia Multicultural Festival and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration.

BANNER DISPLAYS AT CITY HALL

Purpose: As the City of Laconia's center of government, City Hall is more than an administrative government building. City Hall is symbol of the City of Laconia itself and of all it represents and stands for. Because of this the display of appropriate banners at City Hall will also be seen by many as representing the values that City embraces. Both longtime residents and first time visitors will find the banners displayed at City Hall will give them an insight as to what kind of community Laconia aspires to be.

Banners can be of many different types:

Affirmational: Some banners will celebrate and affirm basic human rights such as the Gay Pride Banner.

Awareness: Some banners such as Alzheimer's and Cancer Awareness draw attention to the ongoing need to support medical research to find a cure for these terrible diseases.

Celebratory: Some banners will recognize the heroes who walk among us such as our Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Service Officers and those in our community serving in the Armed Forces.

Promotion: Some banners will promote community wide events such as Multi-Cultural Day and Pumpkin Fest.

Religious and/or politically themed banners are not appropriate and will not be allowed.

Management and Review:

The City Council at all times retains approval authority of what is displayed at City Hall.

The City Human Rights Committee will have the responsibility of reviewing all applications to display banners and make a recommendation to the City Council for their approval. The Laconia Human Relations Committee will also develop a formal set of rules and guidelines for banner display that will be presented to the City Council for their review and approval.