

## Laconia Human Relations Committee

### February 14, 2022 - Meeting Minutes

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

David Stamps welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Laconia Human Relations Committee. Committee member roll call was taken, a quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 3:34pm.

#### II. ATTENDANCE

Present – Chair David Stamps, Carol Pierce, David Osman, Matt Soza, Trish Weatherbee, Janet Simons, Pat Wood, Carrie Chandler

Present via Zoom – David Osman, Margaret Donnelly, Rev. Judith Wright, Kay Anderson

Excused – Mayor Andrew Hosmer, Kate Bruchacova, Seifu Ragassa

#### III. OLD BUSINESS

Minutes Approval – **A motion was made by Matt Soza, seconded by Pat Wood, to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2022 Laconia Human Relations Committee. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.**

Martin Luther King Jr – Committee's letter was printed in the Daily Sun prior to the holiday.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

Facebook – thank you Margaret Donnelly for being our FB page administrator. Carrie Chandler offered to take admin rights.

Laconia Multi-Cultural Day – Becky Guyer is no longer interested in organizing this event and has given notice. Planning typically starts in January. Committee shared thoughts about how to continue this event.

- Need someone to organize the event – Pat Wood may know of someone
- Explore a partnership with Laconia Mill and Celebrate Laconia
- Smaller scale?
- Increase pay of organizer?

The Mill has opportunity to schedule a wedding on the same date as the Multi-Cultural Festival. **A motion was made by Rev. Wright, seconded by Matt Soza, to release the date scheduled for Multi-Cultural Day, with the understanding that if we are able organize the festival, in some form or fashion, that another date and/or location will be determined. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.**

Resettlement – there may some movement to resettle Afghani refugees to Laconia.

Southern Poverty Law article: “Ten Ways to Fight Hate” – David Osman brought this to the group for discussion.

- Ways to respond to difficult incidences; to understand the difference between hate crimes and bias incidence. A bias incidence may be harmful or hurtful but is not always a criminal act.
- Understanding community tools to deal with a hate crime as opposed to a bias incident
- Create a network to include law enforcement
- How does this article speak to us?

Budget Request - \$2000 request was submitted last fall.

#### Thank You

The group spent some time thanking Margaret Donnelly for her many contributions to the committee. One member appropriately described her as a “spark plug.” Margaret will be greatly missed – and we wish the very best for her as she moves to California.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no one present for public comment.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting was adjourned by Chair David Stamps 4:51p.**

***Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2022, 3:30p, City Hall Room 200A and via zoom invite.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Chandler,  
Recording Secretary