

City of Laconia – Human Relations Committee

March 9, 2021

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 3:03 pm. The Chair reviewed procedures related to public access to electronic meetings as required under Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present – Mayor Andrew Hosmer, Chair David Stamps, Carol Pierce, Rev. Judith Wright, David Osman, Janet Simmon, Matt Soza, Trish Weatherbee, Kay Anderson and Carrie Chandler

Excused – Margaret Donnelly, Kate Bruchacova

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Matt Soza, seconded by Janet Simmon, to accept the minutes of the February 9, 2021 Laconia Human Relations Committee meeting. A vote was taken, and with two abstaining, the minutes were accepted as written.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Homeless Taskforce

Information was provided about a new warming shelter established out of the Calvary Assembly of God Church on Bowman Street. It will be staff by two people and open from 6p – 8a as weather dictates.

Multi-Cultural Festival

Multi-Cultural Festival is scheduled for September 11, 2021. The board is scheduled to meet this month and will begin efforts to line up musicians.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Group Question Raised

Members shared why they enjoy serving on the LHR Committee and ways to continue the work.

Community Education Program

The committee would like to facilitate community discussion through a series of columns in the Daily Sun entitled “Let’s Talk about Democracy.” The newspaper will run four columns (one weekly). Depending upon the response – other forums ie. Zoom meetings may be planned. The hope is to stimulate conversation from this forum on what it means to live in a democracy. It was suggested to add the need to exercise responsibility to support democracy – a call for action.

A motion was made by Janet Simmon, seconded by Rev. Judith Wright, to move forward with the newspaper column series related to democracy. A vote was taken and with no objections the motion passed.

Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education

A preliminary report dated December 31, 2020 and member letter was shared for committee feedback. The national study shows that young people do not have much of an education about the holocaust. There is a bill which would mandate genocide and holocaust education curriculum at age appropriate levels within our schools. Keene has an excellent program. There is a current bill not to allow anything divisive in schools. Laconia High School offers a Social Justice class that discusses this subject but has limited participants. The book “On Tyranny” was suggested reading.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present for public comment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Carol Pierce made a motion, David Osman seconded, to change the Laconia Human Relations meeting day and time from 2nd Tuesday of the month at 3p to 2nd Monday of the month at 3:30p. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; and with no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm by the Chair.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12, 2021, 3:30p via Zoom invite.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Chandler,
Recording Secretary