

# CITY OF LACONIA – HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

June 16, 2020 - Quarterly Meeting

City Hall Chambers

## 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 3:04pm. The Chair reviewed procedures related to public access to electronic meetings as required under Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12.

### II. ATTENDANCE

Present - Chair David Stamps, Carol Pierce, Rev. Judith Wright, David Osman, Janet Simmon, Dennis Bothamley, Matt Soza, Margaret Donnelly, Kate Bruchacova and Carrie Chandler

Excused – Mayor Andrew Hosmer

### III. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND SECRETARY

Secretary – Nominations were opened and Carrie Chandler asked to continue to serve as Secretary for the 2020-2021 year. **A motion was made by David Osman, seconded by Dennis Bothamley, a roll call vote was taken, and with no opposition, the motion passed.**

Chair – Nominations were opened and David Stamps was asked to continue to serve as Chairperson for the 2020-2021 year. **A motion was made by Carol Pierce, seconded by Janet Simmon, a roll call vote was taken, and with no opposition, the motion passed.**

### IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

**A motion was made by Margaret Donnelly, seconded by Rev. Judith Wright, to accept the minutes of the December 17, 2019 quarterly Laconia Human Relations Committee meeting. A vote was taken, and with no opposition, the minutes were accepted as written.**

**A motion was made by Carol Pierce, seconded by David Osman, to accept the minutes of the June 3, 2020 meeting related to the Social Justice Vigil. A vote was taken, and with no opposition and two abstaining, the minutes were accepted as written.**

## V. AGENDA

- Committee Reports:

- FINANCE

David Stamps reviewed the finance report which states a balance of \$1,378.62 as of March 8, 2020. There have been no expenditures since last meeting. We typically expect \$2,000 from the city after July 1<sup>st</sup>. **A vote to approve was postponed as the report has not been posted yet.**

- CHAIR

- LACONIA MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

David Stamps reported, due to Covid 19, this year's festival has been postponed until next year – September 11, 2021.

- COMMITTEE FOCUS/RELEVANCE

David Stamps requested new ideas for how the committee can evolve and respond to issues of racial and social justice. Some thoughts include:

- Current events justify an increase need for our committee
- Committee should take a more proactive/activist stance
- Focus on specific projects that are a challenge to the city due to circumstances
  - Black Lives Matter – a second silent vigil is scheduled for 6/19/20, Belknap Mill in conjunction with the Historical Society is working on a project (details to follow)
  - School history curriculum – invite local and state reps to a meeting
  - Police sensitivity training
- As a Mayor's committee – we should dialogue with Andrew Hosmer to get his thoughts
- Children are the future – how best to affect change at the educational level so they have a full picture of American history (Southern Poverty Law Center has training materials regarding racial sensitivity and implicit bias)
- Allocate some of the Multi-Cultural funds to local initiatives that the committee supports (ie. training for police, mental health center works with prison)
- Offer community programming / open forums around a specific issue (streamline conversations with Chief of Police, etc)
- Gather list of resources available for children to explain current issues

- Regular column in the Daily Sun on behalf of the Laconia Human Relations Committee (include where to get Everyone is Welcome in Laconia signs)
- Change committee meeting schedule from quarterly to monthly - ideas

○ IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION INITIATIVE

Kate Bruchacova reported that her program received funding to continue the work. Hospitality employers are in need of staff this summer; some students have received VISAS – quarantining has been a challenge and she is awaiting guidance.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jim Thompson – stated there was good conversation around how to make things better in the community with schools and police. He stated that more community involvement is needed to represent other views/ideas.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Margaret Donnelly, seconded by Carol Pierce, to adjourn the meeting; and with no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:13p by the Chair.**

***Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020, 3p, via Zoom invite.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Chandler,  
Recording Secretary

## LACONIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MISSION

To:

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

DRAFT