

City of Laconia – Human Relations Committee

September 15, 2020

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 3:05 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, Dennis Bothamley, Matt Soza, Margaret Donnelly, Kate Bruchacova and Carrie Chandler

Excused – none

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by David Osman, seconded by Mayor Hosmer, to accept the minutes of the August 11, 2020 Laconia Human Relations Committee meeting. A vote was taken, and with no opposition, the minutes were accepted as written.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Martin Luther King Jr – discussed planning regarding the January 17, 2021 celebration. The COVID situation will be taken into consideration. Various ideas were presented including:

- zoom lecture by Rebecca Norwell, PHD regarding Nathaniel Peabody Rogers and the freedom of slaves, break out rooms for discussion tables
- historical scavenger hunt to locate “bits of history”
- take action for the good of the community (Poor People’s Campaign) – setup a space downtown for people to stop by and take what is needed, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, shampoo, etc; provide pocket Constitutions
- provide literature – ie. “the police are your friend”

- Possibility of combining two ideas – a lecture via zoom and an action activity centered downtown

Janet Simmons will chair a sub-committee with Rev. Wright, Kate, Janet and Matt to explore these ideas and others.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Critical Incidents Committee – this past committee was designed to meet if something happens within the community around hate/discrimination which causes division; ie. a hate crime. The group was comprised of the mayor and community leaders who would meet to form a response. Mayor Hosmer will discuss the idea with Chief Adams.

Democracy Discussion – there seem to be two differing thoughts – 1. Freedom – I decide for myself and 2. Inclusivity – commitment to each other. Various members spoke about what democracy means personally to them. Discussion was intended to renew the committee in terms of core beliefs. Review of the committee’s Mission Statement will be added to the agenda.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A time was provided for public comments. Jim Thompson spoke.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by David Osman, seconded by Dennis Bothamley, to adjourn the meeting; and with no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:39 pm by the Chair.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 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.