

West Hartford Human Rights Commission
Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 7 PM – Special Meeting
Elmwood Community Center

In Attendance:

Chair: Mark Linabury

Treasurer: Eric Schoenberg

Secretary: Alana Butler

Commissioners: Kathryn Lance, Bruno Venero

Town Representative: Pramod Pradhan

Not in Attendance:

Commissioners Cara Paiuk and PJ Paneru

Special Meeting Minutes:

- Mark called the meeting to order at 7:18 PM, followed by attendance and reading of the mission statement.
- The September 2024 meeting minutes were approved with one amendment by Katie
- We discussed updating the mission statement, dividing it into a vision statement and mission statement with more modern language.
 - We will add immigration status and socio-economic status and change some of the terminologies used to reflect current politically correct standards.
 - Alana will provide a draft based on the discussion
- Park Road Parade Debrief:
 - Mark expressed appreciation for the commissioners' participation in the parade. WHHRC is prominently showcased in the Park Road Parade social media coverage
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights Celebration:
 - The celebration will be held at the West Hartford Town Hall on January 15th
 - Pramod is including the Hall Translation Club and is looking to include musical performances from Conard students
 - WHHRC members will read the preamble, with Mark serving as MC
 - Doors open at 5:30, event starts at 6
- Mark reported on his meeting with Town Council member Deb Polun. She recommended speaking with several town employees, which was included into the strategic plan
- Strategic Plan Discussion:

- Alana reviewed this year's objectives and methods outlined in the plan
- Alana will add interfaith solidarity to the objectives, as well as making collaboration with the Town Council under methods
- We discussed speaking to Vision Zero about accessibility best practices for pedestrians
- In order to seek input from the town, we will request that an email address be added to our webpage on the town website. Katie is creating WeHaHRC@gmail.com for this purpose
- We discussed speaking to high school students about their thoughts on current human rights issues – Pramod can talk to the Translation Club and we can also talk to the Mayor's Youth Council
- New Business
 - There are 2 vacancies. Applications are currently being reviewed by the Town Council
 - Mark is inviting Adrienne Billings-Smith to speak at the November meeting
 - We will discuss social media guidelines during the December meeting
- We reviewed action items, including:
 - Alana to draft an updated mission statement/vision statement based on today's discussion, which will be reviewed by the commissioners prior to the next meeting. It will be an agenda item at the November meeting.
 - Mark will reach out to Adrienne-Billings Smith to invite to November meeting
 - Pramod will send out the run of show for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights celebration
 - Alana will reach out to Tiana about removing Kristyn Rosen-Jacobs from the website
 - Alana will amend the September meeting minutes and send to Tiana
 - Katie will create the WHHRC email address
- Next meeting: November 6, 2024 - 7 PM
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm