

**Town of Hamden
Human Rights and Relations Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 8th 2021
7:00 pm**

To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/BoV_ysmjm-Qb97lFaHxJMflq2wiSTQmAn_9307ztKJ9C2T1TobcW810_ouwqCA.DpxKgLZw_a5pZGBa

**** If prompted for a password, enter: 4WW+9#8***

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Minutes

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Cardwell called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
- 2. Attendance**
 - a. In Attendance:** Sean Cardwell, Chairman; Tracey Bowens; Mike Thompson; Rabbi Brockman; Ganiyu Mimiko; Martha Walker
 - b. Absent:** Weruche George; Judith Goldberg; Wanda Harris; Julie Smith, Keefe Center
- 3. Approval of Past Minutes**
 - a. Rabbi Brockman made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting, which took place on March 11th, 2021. Mr. Bowens seconded and all were in favor.
- 4. Correspondence**
 - a. There was no correspondence to report on.
- 5. Guest Speakers:** Ms. Julie Smith- Acting Community Development Manager, Keefe Community Center
 - a. Ms. Smith could not attend, due to personal reasons. Chairman Cardwell suggested that she speak sometime in the fall.
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. Covid-19:** Update on Vaccines
 - i.** Ms. Walker arrived at 7:05 pm. There was some brief discussion regarding the benefit of taking Tylenol before and/or after the second vaccination shot. Mr. Bowens noted the importance of staying hydrated afterwards. Ms. Walker emphasized that despite the uncertainty regarding the vaccine, it is important to keep oneself and others safe. Mr. Bowens echoed this point, noting that the decision to get vaccinated affects everybody.
 - b. Mask Donations**
 - i.** All masks have been successfully donated.
 - c. Monthly Movie Series:** Discuss May showing
 - i.** As Ms. George was not in attendance, she will update the commission at a later date.

d. Connecticut Human Rights Commission Forum: Update

- i. Chairman Cardwell sent a draft letter to Mr. Bowens, Rabbi Brockman, and the CHRP, for review. This welcome letter will be sent to local HRR commissions, explaining the goals and timeline for the forum. Chairman Cardwell hopes to hold the forum in June. An agenda for the forum will need to be created before the May meeting. He expects the entirety of the May meeting to be spent preparing for the forum. If necessary, Mr. Mitoma and Mr. Stiltner of CHRP, will hopefully be able to advise.

e. Community Assistance

- i. Chairman Cardwell asked the commissioners and Mr. Tulin if they had any ideas. At this time, no commissioners had any ideas.

7. New Business

a. Earth Day

- i. The Town is promoting at home composting. Composters can be purchased at a discount from a third party website. They can be preordered up to 4/21 and are available for pickup on 4/24. The Mayor has expressed interest in organizing a “clean-up” on the trail behind the Hamden Middle School.

Chairman Cardwell stated that he will post on the group’s social media on Earth Day. The goal is to highlight the relationship between human rights and taking care of the planet.

b. Guest Speaker: May Selection

- i. There will be no guest speaker in May, as the commissioners will be preparing for the forum. Mr. Tulin was invited to actively participate in that meeting.

8. Thoughts and Ideas

- a. Ms. Walker updated the commission on the Black History Committee scholarship fund. The group was unable to hold fundraisers, due to the pandemic. However, they were able to promote via letters. Despite the odds, the committee will be able to give out seven awards, which is more than last year. Mr. Bowens congratulate the committee for being able to accomplish their goal, during these uncertain times. Ms. Walker also noted that the MLK program and the Black History Month program went over well, also.

9. Executive Session (If Required): N/A

- 10. Adjournment:** At 7:20 pm, Mr. Bowens made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mimiko seconded, and all were in favor.

Submitted by: Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk