

Town of Hamden
Human Rights and Relations Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday October 14th, 2021
7:00 pm
Via Zoom/ Electronically

***To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/9QITj8hG8zGBTaYtwbTds-MMkpuQNVziYRLsSspCGIYFDieaTzGL5Ue4hfezQCZV.3JlxC8gDftrKmaSC>

Access Passcode: jx2v+g#W

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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; Rabbi Herbert Brockman; Tracy Bowens; Judith Goldberg; Mike Thompson
 - b. Also In Attendance:** Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk
 - c. Absent:** Ganiyu Mimiko; Weruche George; Martha Walker
- 3. Approval of Past Minutes**
 - a. September 16th, 2021 (Special Meeting)
 - i. Mr. Bowens made a motion to approve the September 16th, 2021 minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Goldberg. All were in favor.
- 4. Correspondence -/a**
 - a. The clerk, Ms. Paglia briefly explained a mural project, honoring Martin Luther King Jr., which is being spearheaded by the Arts and Culture Department. All commissioners expressed interest in supporting the project, but requested additional information, regarding logistics. Ms. Goldberg volunteered to be a liaison between the commission and the Arts and Culture Department.
- 5. Guest Speakers- N/A**
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. Connecticut Human Rights Commission Forum:** Review of next meeting on 10/28/21
 - i. Chairman Cardwell explained that the structure of the meeting is still taking shape and there is a possibility that a social media presence may be established.
 - b. Monthly Movie Series:**
 - i. As Ms. George was unable to attend the meeting, the November movie discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
 - c. Mission/ Purpose Discussion (Executive Session)**

- i. At 7:12 pm, the commission entered into an executive session, which ended at 7:24 pm.

7. New Business

a. Election (11/2/21)

- i. Chairman Cardwell noted that the commission should continue to distribute as much information as possible regarding how to vote, and the importance of it.

b. CHRO: Human Right's Conference (10/28/21)

- i. Chairman Cardwell explained that the tentative structure for the Conference is as follows: human rights commissions and stakeholders, housing issues, and anti-discrimination. Chairman Cardwell asked the commissioners present if anyone would be interested in participating in a panel for best practices for human rights commissions. Mr. Bowens asked if the meeting would be recorded, and if so, perhaps the commission as a whole could review the meeting and discuss the topics at future commission meetings.

c. Community Outreach: Commissioners Conversation (Hamden Public Library)

- i. Chairman Cardwell discussed his experience at the Commissioners Conference, which took place on 10/5. Eight chairpersons from various Hamden commissions were invited to participate in a discussion regarding how the library can be more of a positive and active force in the community. Topics of discussion included: infrastructure, teen programming, historic items, etc. The library's goal is to hold about 20 more similar conferences. Chairman Cardwell expressed his hope that more of the HRRC members could participate, moving forward. Mr. Bowens asked what the outcome of the conferences would be. Chairman Cardwell stated that the Library hopes to unite the commissions with each other, along with the Legislative Council. He expects that by December 2021, the Library will have some conclusive action items or deductions from the various conferences.

d. Guest Speaker: November guest

- i. Chairman Cardwell hopes to have Marji Shapiro speak at the November meeting, if her schedule allows.

8. Thoughts and Ideas

- a. Ms. Goldberg proposed that the mission committee also take on an investigative/research role, so that if a member of the public brings up an issue, there is a committee in place to address it appropriately. There was a general consensus among the commissioners, regarding exploring this investigative role.

9. Executive Session (See above)

- 10. **Adjournment:** At 7:36pm, Mr. Bowens made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Rabbi Brockman. All were in favor.

Submitted by: Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk