



RUTHERFORD CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES – OCTOBER 21, 2020

Meeting via Zoom

Topic: Rutherford Civil Rights Commission's Zoom Meeting

Time: Oct 21, 2020 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87516909550>

Meeting ID: 875 1690 9550

PRESENT - Sami Abuauad, Alcides Aguasvivas, Matt Cokeley, Beverly Khan Pal, Jessica Lezcano, Shefali Pilar, Tarek Salib, Steve Way

NOT PRESENT – Lia Abrams, Robbie Kenney, Layla Khiry, Rob Lyons, Renjith Pilai

COUNCIL LIAISON – Not Present Eddie Narucki

GUESTS – Eddy Rolon, Sam and Alex Riviello, Joe and Jessica Rizzo

6:39p – Call to order – Reading of Sunshine Law – Steve Way

PUBLIC COMMENTS OPEN

Eddy Rolon – 7 Clark Ct. He spoke about posting a Good Morning America clip on our Facebook page highlighting a story about an interracial couple who's home was assessed higher once the black spouse removed images of her and their son from their home. He wants the RCRC to see if any trends in bias in our town for such.

Steve's response: it is very important

Sam and Alex Riviello – 54 The Terrace. Interested the work we are doing.

Joe and Jessica Rizzo – 226 W. Newell – Zoomed in to check it out and see what's up.

THREADLESS – Matt spoke about our shop open on-line. No issues with Borough about profiting as Montclair's CRC raises funds for admin.

ANNIVERSARY EVENT BIKE SCAVENGER HUNT – Matt announced the Riviello Family as winners and read their letter of thanks.

ARTS GRANT – Jessica spoke about us completing the application today and had Bergen County Arts Council guide us on what to include. We included how during the pandemic we have been creative in finding ways to bring the community together and communicate. Grant will go to the Multi-Cultural Festival as before. Next Grant on the horizon is to preserve RCRC archives via technology.

2021 CALENDAR – Steve mentioned to start thinking about Black History Month. Beverly stated the proposed list of events/religious holidays have been uploaded by Matt on Slack.

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER – Matt discussed using Mailchimp to capture emails and sending a newsletter to create more channels to reach out and be reached, disseminate history and stories.

WEBSITE – Al spoke on how our new website will make things easier for the community to reach us, upload forms, archives and audiobooks amongst other resources. The old website took us to the Multicultural Festival and we are more than that.

BOOKCLUB – Bev spoke about “Caste” on October 29th and a second event in November. RCRC can suggest books for 2021 on Slack. Some mentioned are “How to be an Anti-Racist” and “Frederick Douglass”.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Matt replied to Eddy that homeowners can apply to have their tax re-assessed. Matt welcomed Eddy to get involved. Eddy replied with he doesn't have access nor is it easy to assume ethnicity by name, citing his and his wife's names. Matt replied that without a formal complaint, we can't investigate but thanks for his concerns.

Tarek asked if we have a budget. Matt said to work with him on that. Beverly said to reach out to Renjith our treasurer as well.

Steve asked Bev if the RHS nurse got back with a student name from ERASE club. She has not. Bev will follow-up.

Steve asked everyone to take a look at the calendar for 2021 and prepare for our November meeting.

7:14pm – Meeting adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Beverly Khan Pal