



RUTHERFORD CIVIAL RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES – February 17, 2021

Meeting via ZOOM

Topic: Rutherford Civil Rights Commission's ZOOM Meeting

Time: February 17, 2021 6:30pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join ZOOM Meeting

Meeting ID:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/2376580636?pwd=V0k1NVBvYTh1Rm15N1dTRUozRUpyZz09>

PRESENT – Beverly Khan Pal, Jessica Lezcano, Shefali Pilar, Steve Way, Renjith Pilai, Jessica Lezcano, Lori Rosario-Griffin, Maria Roberson, Bill Brennan, Esther Gatria, Christie Del Rey-Cone, Mark Tenn, Grethen Corsillo, Mary Ahn, Ginny Perrin, Paul Frazier, Sami Abuauad

NOT PRESENT – Robbie Kenney, Alcides Aguasvivas, Tarek Salib

Member of the public – Eddie Rolan

GUESTS – Hillary Alberts

6:40p – Call to order – Reading of Sunshine Law – Steve Way

- REVIEW PAST MINUTES – completed
 - Everyone notified that Slack has past meeting minutes available for review.
 - Beverly motioned to pass minutes from Dec 2020 and it was seconded and approved
- ELECTION
 - Steve Way is the only officer as of the new year. All other positions need to be voted on today
 - Steve nominates Beverly for Co-Chair – approved with majority vote
 - Steve nominates Alcides for Vice-Chair – Christy seconds and approved with majority vote
 - Steve nominates Renjith for Treasurer – Jessica seconds and approved with majority vote
 - Beverly nominates Shefali for Recording Secretary – Steve seconds and approved with majority vote
 - Steve welcomes new members
 - Gretchen – new director for library
 - Mary – senior at RHS, student liaison
 - Maria – new council liaison
- MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC
 - Eddy Rolan (7 Clark Ave)

- Notifies us that there is a lack of public commenting during ZOOM calls during mayor and council meetings. The ACLU in NJ had gotten together and agree that commenting should be allowed.
 - He is hoping that the RCRC can be instrumental in hosting a local town forum.
 - Beverly Khan – speaking on behalf of Hillary
 - Hillary is part of the Junior Women’s Club in Rutherford but is joining as a citizen of Lyndhurst to try to model what we are doing in Rutherford in Lyndhurst
 - Bill Brennan (29 Hastings Ave)
 - He has always been interested in the work of the Civil Rights Commission and issues of racial injustice in the state and in Rutherford. Learned on FB group RARI (Rutherford Anti-Racism Initiative) that HS students were asked to debate pro/con of slavery and that became a topic of conversation on the RARI forum. He is wondering if it is something that we would address in RCRC or if that is something that should be left to the RARI group.
 - Steve Way clarifies that although our goal is to educate, we would only intervene if there is a formal complaint or an individual comes to us for help.
 - Christie says that she understands the rules and limitations of RCRC w/o a formal complaint but is there a way to do some outreach to be able to remind people we are here and are able to help
 - Lori is an Admin RARI – group was established around the George Floyd incident. There are multiple different groups in RARI including one that is speaking with Mr. Hurley about the curriculum.
- COMMITTEES
 - Ginny presented ideas for committees.
 - Education
 - Fundraising/Finance
 - Archives – organization of all documents
 - Communications – to ensure information about the commission is accurate everywhere and allow people to learn about us and contact us easily
 - Multicultural Festival
 - Outreach – building partnerships with current businesses in town and county organizations
 - Rules/Governance/Mediation
 - Planning Calendar
 - Website/social media – to ensure that all information on those forums are tied in together.
 - Steve makes a motion to form the committees mentioned below, Christie seconds it, and majority vote approves the following committees:
 - Education/Thematic Events/Calendar
 - Communications/Outreach/Website/Social Media
 - Fundraising/Finances
 - Archives
 - Multicultural Festival
 - Rules/Governance/Mediation

- **BYLAWS**
 - Christie – says she and Lori are trying to coordinate with the town lawyer to discuss what the bylaws have been and what they should be. They want to get his approval before modifying any of original bylaws.
- **FINANCES**
 - Renjith says we have \$5128.91 in treasury as of Jan 28th
 - Website renewed for \$28.16
 - We have two active websites and they need to have the domain names linked/redirected to eliminate cost of paying for two sites
- **ARCHIVES**
 - Steve says we were awarded a grant of \$725 for our archives to fund a professional scanner to scan our old documents.
- **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**
 - Family Movie Night
 - “Sounder” for Feb 19th 7pm
 - May have to get cancelled because Maria says that she got a call from Shawn Stutter that Disney is very stringent about streaming movies, especially over ZOOM. The library has authorization and two movie licenses to stream movies only onsite (not via ZOOM). The concern with ZOOM is with regards to piracy.
 - Ginny asked if we can find out if they will allow it since so many things are being done virtually now
 - Book club at 8pm tonight – Promise Land by Barak Obama
 - Poetic celebration 7pm on Feb 24th – only one person has signed up to read a poem so far
 - Mary will spread the word about the event in school
 - Deadline of Feb 19th to read or submit poems
 - Book club 8pm on Feb 24th – Calvin Spann
 - Poster essay contest – typically sponsored by Felician University. Beverly is reaching out to the new president (Admiral Crawford) to sponsor the event for 2022 and to see if he can be a guest for the Fireside Chats.
- **SCHOLARSHIP**
 - When we get the Education Committee going, we will get started on this again.
- **MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL**
 - Steve would like to have it mid-May and if we have to post-pone it, so be it but we will definitely have the event this year.
- **B. GOLDBERG LETTER**
 - Beverly read a letter dated Jan 26th from B. Goldberg which gave thanks for being awarded the RCRC Community Service Award
- **NEWSLETTER**
 - Maria says that she knows that the council puts out a newsletter every 2 weeks (comes out the Thursday or Friday after the council meeting) and she said if the RCRC wants to include anything in it, to pass it to her.
- **GOALS FOR 2021**
 - Mark – wants to start an annual outdoor film screening series during the summer. It is a nice way for people to get together in town. Perhaps in Lincoln Park. Will typically have to begin after sundown (perhaps 9pm) so there can be speeches or musical performances beforehand.

- Jessica will look into coordinating permits for such an event. The biggest concern will be the outdoor gathering capacity for events. She mentions that there is a concert series in the park and the movie event could alternate with the concert series.
- Christie – wants to see more events that would be inclusive for all groups. She would like to see us be a beacon for younger generations and other groups such as LGBTQ.
- Ginny – wants to establish more partnerships with other businesses in town.
- Beverly – would like to see historic narratives revived.
- Maria – walking tours for residents to learn about their town
- Steve Way mentioned the passing of George Edwards
- Meeting ended at 7:58pm