



RUTHERFORD CIVIAL RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES – June 16,2021

Meeting via ZOOM

Topic: Rutherford Civil Rights Commission’s ZOOM Meeting

Time: June 16 ,2021 6:30pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join ZOOM Meeting

Meeting ID:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88511197348?pwd=ZHZNcjJGeUxlc9RandlcXBsSIBuZz09>

Beverly Khan Pal	Sami Abuauad
Steve Way	Eddy Rolon – public (7 Clark Ave)
Renjith Pillai	Tarek Salib - absent
Alcides Aguasvivas	Gretchen Corsillo -absent
Shefali Pilar	Maria Begg-Roberson (Council Liaison) - absent
Lori Rosario-Griffin	John Ledwith – public (328 Montross)
Esther Gatria	
Christie Del Rey-Cone	
Mark Tenn	
Ginny Perrin	
Jessica Lezcano	
Paul Frazier	

*Present – highlighted

6:34pm – Steve called the meeting to order and read Sunshine Law

- REVIEW PAST MINUTES – completed. Minutes approved (Shefali accept, Jessie 2nd)
- Eddy Rolon
 - Access for All – started in Rutherford in 2015.
 - He was recently invited to go to an Access for All in Mahwah and they have monthly events and he assumed Access for All behaved the same way in Rutherford
 - Since September 2020 he has been documenting that whenever there are meetings, he is not able to accurately find where/when the meetings are or the links are not working. He contacted the borough because he feels that all those meetings should be available to all Rutherford residents.

- After March 15th – borough attorney (Bruno and Ferrero) responded to his complaint and told him that the meetings are not meant to be public
- Christie – wants to know what Eddy’s goal is to be able to have Access for All meetings available. Is he trying to get information or provide his insights?
 - She agrees that those that are interested should have access to those meetings however, it is possible that the meetings are not open to the public or being hosted due to COVID
- Ginny – she will follow up to see if the Access for All committee is meant to be an open meeting or not.
- John Ledwith
 - He is an admin for the Antiracism Initiative FB page
 - He had engaged with Mr. Hurley to make sure that equity was being taught in the schools.
 - A letter was written to Mr. Hurley which was shared on FB and Mr. Hurley’s response was shared on the Civil Rights Commission
 - Christie – summarized Mr. Hurley’s letter where he was basically saying that the schools are not looking to appease the interests of every group and that the Antiracism Initiative is a FB group only. The letter implies that there is a lack of interest in partnership to teach equity.
 - Beverly – will schedule a separate meeting to discuss this due to lack of time during today’s meeting. We are aware of this as a group but since we have not all read the letter, we need a separate meeting to discuss it.
 - John says that he was invited by Mr. Hurley to meet with him and some of the members of the Antiracism Initiative in the upcoming days.
 - That one voice that wrote the letter is very “loud” and it is important that we get many other voices in support of equity and diversity education to drown out that voice.
- Lori – scholarship
 - She went to the senior awards ceremony and presented the award to Ella Brown who was the recipient of the Marshall Scholarship (\$1500).
 - Since the Commission did not get to do our own scholarship this year, Lori wondered if we could match the Marshall Scholarship or round up to \$2000 to give Ella another scholarship from the Commission.
 - Ginny – commented that it may not be the best way to give our scholarship because it may be seen as not having given others the opportunity to accept that scholarship.
 - The majority felt that it would be best to preserve what funds we have for scholarships and give it next year
- Mark – movie screening
 - July 14th – first movie screening date
 - Already reserved through Mayor and Council by Jessica
 - Theme – civil rights theme – Movie (Pixar’s Soul)
 - Bev – spoke about the lead in to the movie
 - Ella Brown has agreed to open the movie with a song
 - Cliff Hanger will be running tech for the evening
 - They are semi-booked so he will go back to them to confirm again
 - He will also need to get a 2nd quote
 - Total is anticipated to be about \$1200
 - He is checking for the rights availability – it will be about \$450 from Sling

- Charge \$30-50 for porch family photos and give them to families as 5 digital prints. Arrange a schedule and tell people that we are looking for diversity in the photos. Approximately 30 families can get us a quick \$1000.
 - Maggie McGill charged \$25
 - Having a standard location with a schedule may be better so the photographer (Sami) can be waiting at a specific location.
 - We can also charge a higher amount to people that want to have the photos taken on their home porches and less for people coming to a location.
 - Separate meeting will be arranged for fundraising – possibly next week
- Stonewall Event
 - June 28th 7:45pm at Sunset Park
 - Ginny will be the feature speaker to talk about why the event is so special.
 - It is a partnership with Rutherford Pride Association
 - Steve motioned to approve the event and Alcides 2nd it.
- T-Shirts – Alcides
 - He uploaded a couple of different logos to the Threadless Shop
 - If anyone has any ideas for quotes or pictures for the T-shirts, just post them for review
 - Should be live on the website in the next week or so

Meeting called to close by Steve at 8:02pm