



RUTHERFORD CIVIAL RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES – May 19,2021

Meeting via ZOOM

Topic: Rutherford Civil Rights Commission’s ZOOM Meeting

Time: May 19,2021 6:30pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join ZOOM Meeting

Meeting ID:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88511197348?pwd=ZHZNcjdBGeUxck9RandlcXBsSIBuZz09>

Beverly Khan Pal	Maria Begg-Roberson (Council Liaison) - absent
Steve Way	Sami Abuauad – absent
Renjith Pillai	Tarek Salib - absent
Alcides Aguasvivas	Mary Ahn
Shefali Pilar	Gretchen Corsillo
Lori Rosario-Griffin	
Esther Gatria – absent	
Christie Del Rey-Cone - absent	
Mark Tenn	
Ginny Perrin	
Jessica Lezcano	
Paul Frazier	

\*Present – highlighted

6:38pm – Roll Call – Beverly Khan

6:42pm

- REVIEW PAST MINUTES – completed. Minutes approved (Lori 1<sup>st</sup> and Alcides 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Archives
  - Alcides– upon speaking in more detial to the initial archives scanning vendor, they said that they do not have capacity for that scope of work. He will get a quote from another vendor. The initial company assumed it was scanning of photos, rather than archival documents.
    - He had estimated a \$1200 budget based on specific grants.
- Scholarship

- Lori – explained how we opened the scholarship to local schools (Bergen Academies, Rutherford HS, St. Marys) for a high school senior interested in African American Studies
  - We have only one candidate to date (who will attend Howard University in the Fall). She will wait until Friday to see if there are others. This candidate is from Rutherford HS.
  - Access is not available to the Commission email which made spreading the word more difficult (using personal email address)
- Asian Pacific Island Heritage month
  - Books being read to children at the library
  - Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 10-11:30am
  - Need a few volunteers to help make the origami cranes at the event. Goal would be to try to get 1000 cranes by trying to have people send in cranes that they made at home as well
- Movie Night – Mark Tenn
  - One night for this year and possibly next year expand to multiple nights.
  - Tentatively scheduled Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Open to seeing what cultural theme we can dedicate that movie night to
  - There will also be a dine out night in Rutherford so we may have a lot of foot traffic
  - Also looking for someone to speak or present something prior to the movie
  - Jessica is checking with the borough to see if the borough grant writer can write a grant for us for this event.
    - Estimate \$1000 for the one movie
  - Mark had also emailed Maria Roberson about the date in advance and again today so she is aware to present it at the next town Council meeting
  - Steve requests that we throw movie suggestions in Slack
- Beverly - Really important that when we host an event that we tie it into other events for branding purposes. It helps us with fundraising as well b/c it is easier to fund a series of events at the same time.
- Multicultural festival
  - Date to present to the council – September 24,25,26 (Paul made the motion and Steve 2<sup>nd</sup> it for the dates)
  - Beverly found a few food trucks that would be good to have at the festival
  - Paul would like to know the logistics as to where we can organize different aspects of the festival.
  - Beverly – we really need to solidify the dialogue/wording for when we go out to ask for funding
  - Steve – fundraisers must be specific for each event we plan to host. We cannot ask people to donate to the Commission without specifying the event the funds will be used for
  - Beverly would like the movie night to be included in the fundraising b/c she wants it to be connected with the multicultural festival. This way it will be branded together.
  - Discussed renaming the event - Multicultural Celebration Series – tentative title. Need to brainstorm other possible names.
  - Steve – Feels that this will be the most important festival ever because people will look towards us to pick up where we left off two years ago.
- Grant writing
  - Jessica - We were the recipients of the Bergen County Cultural Grant that is sitting in the CFO office b/c they assumed that we would not use it. However, we would like to use it so we will request a new check to be issued.

- We are hoping to hit \$15,000 by September.
- Threadless
  - Another form of fundraising – it is a shop that the RCRC created last year
    - The items on there are not for profit now but we need to find out if we can raise the price of the items to see if we can create profit.
    - We can describe that Threadless is an ongoing fundraiser for our general funds.
  - Alcides – thinks we should incorporate more than just our logos on there. For example, a print of the artwork that was showcased during Black History Month, our zip code or trees. Each event we host should have a different shirts related to the event so people will be more inclined to get a variety of shirts.
- Juneteenth
  - Last year – Mount Ararat Baptist Church
    - A child read a poem or a spoken word and it was kept simple b/c of the pandemic situation at that time.
  - Location will be kept the same since it will build on what we did last year and we are still the only group hosting such a celebration.
    - If capacity allows, we will have more people there
  - Beverly will reach out to the Red Wheel Barrel and consider adding music/dance instead of just spoken word
- Library – Gretchen
  - Need to decide what we want to decorate the library window with in September
  - Not a good idea to put something archival or original b/c it may get damaged.
  - September is the anniversary of the RCRC so our display will most likely be related to that
- Finances
  - April budget ended with \$5353.53
  - Two reimbursements processed on the 18th - \$119 for ZOOM to Alcides and \$28 for Go Daddy to B. Goldberg
- Bylaws and Mission Statement – briefly reviewed that it is still in progress
- Beverly – Really wants to rebrand the RCRC. It is mostly known for the songs and dances of the multicultural festival and there is so much more to the group that we really want to present to the community.
- Pride Month – pride flag will be raised at borough hall for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row on June 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Ginny – this year it seems it will be a bigger event so it may be good for the RCRC to have a table at the event
- Ginny – trying to see if she can arrange training for us as Commissioners.
  - Perhaps collaborating with the Lyndhurst Anti-Racist group
  - Bystander training
  - Beverly – thinking of doing this around the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter b/c we want to spend the months prior focusing on the events, bylaws, and mission
- Steve called the meeting to an end at 7:43pm