



RUTHERFORD CIVIAL RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES August 18, 2021

Meeting via ZOOM

Topic: Rutherford Civil Rights Commission’s ZOOM Meeting

Time: August 18, 2021 6:30pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join ZOOM Meeting

Meeting ID:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88511197348?pwd=ZHZNcjdGeUxlc9RandlcXBsSIBuZz09>

Beverly Khan Pal	Sami Abuauad - absent
Steve Way	Esther Gatria
Renjith Pillai -absent	David Zicchinella (45 Sylvan Street)
Alcides Aguasvivas	Tarek Salib - absent
Shefali Pilar	Maria Begg-Roberson (Council Liaison) - absent
Ginny Perrin	
Christie Del Rey-Cone	
Mark Tenn	
Lori Rosario-Griffin	
Jessica Lezcano	
Paul Frazier	
Gretchen Corsillo - absent	

*Present – highlighted

6:36pm – Steve called meeting to order and read Sunshine Law

Beverly moved to accept minutes from July 21, 2021, Christie seconds the minutes

- Meeting opened to public
 - David Zicchinella - speaking on behalf of the Historic Preservation Committee – he is the 2021 Chair for the Committee. HPC’s mandate is to help educate and preserve the history of the town as well as the architecture.
 - Spoke of Lafayette Hoage – helped form the underground railroad and at some point in time, he married and built a home at 127 Donaldson Avenue
 - HPC wants to propose to the Mayor and Council to honor this individual and his family for their significant contributions to the fabric of Rutherford and history.

- 127 Donaldson Avenue – the homeowners have agreed to having a plaque approximately 10x13 in size on their home and the cost will be approximately \$340-400. There is no relation with the family that is currently living at the home and the Hoage family.
- The HPC proposes a joint effort with the RCRC and asks for the RCRC to support the idea of honoring the Hoage family in front of the Mayor and Council.
- They hope to get this plaque up and inserted by the end of the year. He is hoping the financial aspect will be taken on by the town
- As the RCRC, our primary focus should be on the history and not necessarily the plaque.
- He would like to present this to Mayor and Council ideally in September.
- Bylaws – Christie
 - Bylaws will get added to the agenda for the next Mayor and Council meeting this coming Monday, August 23rd at 6:30pm.
- Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15)
 - Ester – gave the idea of reaching out to restaurants in town for collaborations
- Concern about the Delta Variant is foremost on people’s thoughts
 - Esther asked if we are prepared to go virtual with the Festival if COVID becomes a bigger concern. Beverly is worried about how the sponsors may respond to cancelling the event.
- Finances
 - Actual balance - \$6823.15
 - The grant money is in the County, but the town will pay up to 75% before receiving the money from the county so, we have \$5310 pending
 - Total balance is - \$12,135.53 if we include grants
 - We have also received \$1000 from Quality Auto
 - Pending - \$250 coming from the Goffin store
 - Alcides company will be donating \$500
 - Alcides feels we should have weekly updates at this time since we have a lot to do before the Festival in almost one month.
- October 2nd is Rutherford Day (Rain date – none)
 - REF will be doing a fundraiser
 - Memorial remembrance game – softball charity game
 - Babysitting service
 - Beer garden service
 - So, we need to apply for a table or space for the RCRC
 - Motion made by Jessica to participate in Rutherford Day and Steve seconded it
 - We will determine the activity at the table at a later date
- Labor Day
 - Should we have a table there?
 - If the purpose is really to advertise the Festival, can we just have a flyer or a poster instead or a QR code?
 - Traditionally, they have 150 vendors, but they so far have only about 100.
- Festival update
 - Paul says he has dancers scheduled, main bands and some of the filler bands scheduled.
 - Paul Frazier comments that we are looking for spoken word for our Festival so he will reach out to the Red Wheel Barrel to see if they would like to perform anything then.
 - He is looking for spoken word performers more than anything.

- He wants to know what the backup plan or dialogue must be if the event gets cancelled in the event of COVID restrictions.
- Ginny recommends we have our attorneys draw up a contract to protect the RCRC if we need to cancel the event.
- Christie says that if COVID restrictions do cause the event to get cancelled, she does not feel that it will cause any legal or financial backlash from the sponsors.
- Ginny asked what happens if we choose to err on the side the cautious side based on recommendations rather than hard and fast restrictions.
- Christie says that we have a responsibility to err on the more cautious side. She thinks it is highly unlikely that we will be left to make that decision without some outside factors.
- Paul says we should be prepared to film the performances in the event of cancellation
- Steve says we can film on the park stage if need.
- There is hesitation to finalize using Cliffhanger based on what happened at Movie Night.
- Food vendors are asking how many people have come to the event in the past – approximately 3-4 thousand.
- The best way to get people there is based largely on how large the performer groups are.
- Steve wants to know the ETA for the flyer. Paul says that he needs to add more items on the flyer and should be able to finalize it this week.
- Because we will not have as many people as in the past, 2 portal potties should be sufficient.
- Steve inquired about getting an ASL interpreter for the event to make it more inclusive.
 - We may need 2-3 interpreters per day.
- Making the event virtual is a large undertaking and rather than us recording, it may be easier to have performers record on their own and then we can upload it. Alternatively, we could also have performances done live via ZOOM and then we would not need food trucks, portal potties, etc.
 - Paul will give a heads up to all sponsors/performers that it might happen.
- Mark says there are about 30 different vendors on the NJ Food Truck Vendors website and it may be good
- Ginny asked if it is possible to support local restaurants
 - Beverly said it was the Health Dept that gave us strict guidelines about having food in the park that is not up to their standards with regards to how it is made and served.
 - Mark says that if we try to get local restaurants involved, then the food trucks may not be interested because it would take away from their business.
- Shefali mentioned that Kulture Kool is willing to provide craft tables or performances and they usually charge \$500. Paul said he reached out to them and they did not mention a charge so he will reach out to them again to find out the specifics.
- Steve - Meeting is called to close at 7:45pm