



RUTHERFORD CIVIAL RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES November 17, 2021

Meeting via ZOOM

Topic: Rutherford Civil Rights Commission’s ZOOM Meeting

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

Join ZOOM Meeting

Meeting ID:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88511197348?pwd=ZHZNcjdBZUxlc9RandlcXBsSIBuZz09>

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

\*Present – highlighted

6:35pm – Steve called meeting to order

- Roll call completed
- Steve - read Sunshine Law
- Esther moved to accept minutes from last meeting and Christie seconds

Meeting open to the public

- Eddy Rolon (7 Clark Avenue)
  - Feels that we are long past due for having local political debates. Uses Montclair as an example of a town that found a way around the pandemic by having online debates. He

feels that it is important for the community to find out what political candidates are all about and he feels that the RCRC may be good to moderate the debate. He knows that it is too late for this year but it would be worth looking into for next year.

- Ginny – says that if we were to moderate or mediate a debate, it should be focused on civil rights issues. If the debate was going to be open to other topics, the location and moderators should be more neutral.
- Eddy – He agrees with Ginny and suggests that perhaps the debate can be moderated by multiple people from a variety of organizations with mission specific topics.
  - He would like to the RCRC to be a starting point to get this going; perhaps elect a moderator or cosponsor an event.
- Beverly – we had inquired with the library liaison during the last meeting about how to organize such an event. She also did not feel that it was fair that only one candidate was available and the other three were not given the limited time we had to organize the event prior to the election. We will look into it for next year and plan it more in advance.
- Christie – asked Eddy if he knew who organized it in other towns. It appears the local newspaper did.

#### Closed session meeting

- Bylaws
  - Christie shared the Bylaws and reviewed it generally
    - Some Commissioners and Officers have reached the end of their terms
    - Wants to know if we should modify the terms in any way
  - Attendance policy
    - Commissioners can be removed by 2/3 vote if they fail to attend more than 3 general session monthly meetings. Commissioners shall join at least 2 Commission committee meetings per calendar year.
    - Christie clarified that absenteeism can be allowed for at the discretion of the Chairperson.
    - Poor behavior or misconduct can also result in being voted out.
  - Term
    - Officers shall remain in seat for two years and Commissioners in their first year of service cannot be an Officer.
    - All Commissioners can be in their seats for 3 years on a rotating basis.
    - Ginny brought up that even though most Officers are coming to the end of their term, we really should see if some Officers can stay on for another term to allow for a good transition and not have an entire new group of Officers.
    - Beverly – it is important for anyone who is not interested in continuing to say something now.
    - The list of current Commissioners is not accurate, and the terms listed are not consistent
      - Sami's full three years are coming to an end
      - Paul Frazier – looks like he was brought on to take over someone else's seat
      - We had voted to remove Tarek but he is still in the roll call.
    - Ginny – there is a huge number of people on this list, and they are not staggered so we have to be careful with how we deal with turnover

- Christie – says that it is automatically staggered because there are already people who have been on for some time. The real question is does someone roll off the Commission and when?
  - In terms of the application process, what kind of skills and needs are we looking for. If someone's time is up but they are an active participant, they should apply again to make sure that they continue to meet the needs of what we need on the Commission.
  - Christie – did an application and interviewed with Mark and Ray. When she inquired if this is always the process, she did not get a solid answer, so it is important to figure out how to select Commissioners.
  - The maximum number of Commissioners is 15 and we are at that number right now.
  - Mark – the Bylaws are a guideline for what we would like to accomplish and what we are doing for the year and the roles that are required.
    - With regards to events: even if a person comes up with the idea for an event, they should not be responsible for executing the entire event. People who are experts at certain skills should be contributing to events using those specific skills
  - Christie – always thought we would come up with an Operations Manual. She was also under the impression that Committees were being created and events were managed by multiple people rather than having it fall on one person's shoulder.
  - Ginny – we cannot be activity driven. We must focus on the bigger picture and then have people who are talented in each role fill the skills needed for specific roles for each event.
  - Beverly – there were Committee meetings happening this year.
  - Christie – felt like it was not a requirement, and it was more suggested to find a committee to join based on urgency for an activity rather than having specific Committees that meet at regular intervals
    - Christie took a motion to adopt the Bylaws and Lori seconds it.
      - The Bylaws have been officially adopted.
- Since the December meeting will not be an official meeting, we will most likely resolve the topic of new Commissioners and possible new Officers for the January 2022 meeting.
  - We currently have 13 Commissioners and have 2 open seats
  - Christie – we need to have the current Commissioners express now whether they plan to continue or discontinue their service for the next term.
  - Renjith – this is his 7<sup>th</sup> year
- Christie will let Bo know the date that we officially adopted the Bylaws.
- Beverly made a motion to officially remove the following individuals from the roster and Steve seconds it
  - Robert Kenny
  - Leah Abrahams
  - Tarek Saleb
  - Mary Ahn
- The nurse at the Highschool has three new candidates for the HS Liaison for next year. Beverly will follow up with that.
- Archives and Grants are tabled until the next meeting

- Finances
  - BCB Bank 10/29/2021 - \$8202.87
    - Two checks written: 1 - \$119.87 to Alcides and 2 - \$475 for the portable toilets to Zuidema Septic Services (\$225 portable toilets and \$250 handicap portable toilets)
    - One deposit of \$1250
    - Beverly has signed almost 1000 requisitions that Mark has provided from Borough Hall
  - Ginny asked what the total amount that is still to be paid out based on the requisitions
    - Beverly is not sure
    - Mark has the cost for the bands – all the requisitions that he has been helping to get processed were for the bands
      - He is hoping that the last of the bank checks will be arriving and that hopefully by the end of the week, the bands will get paid.
    - Beverly says there is a little under \$4000 that is still pending to be paid out.
      - She did ask Gordan where the checks go that get put into Borough Hall and why do they not show up on the statements.
    - Ginny wants to know what documentation we are creating to keep track of all these credits and debits to our account.
      - Normally, if Beverly picks up any checks from the mailbox, she sends a picture of it to Renjith.
    - Mark – total cost for the Festival - \$5853
- Barnes and Noble Fundraiser
  - Esther wants to know how many posters to make copies of to post it around town
  - Beverly wants some clarification on the way the date is being presented on the site because it says December 4<sup>th</sup> in one spot and makes it sound like multiple day in another
  - Where to put posters – train station, houses of worship, PTA weekly newsletters
  - Ginny will put on our website a list of recommended books for Holiday shopping
- December 15<sup>th</sup> RCRC Commissioner Holiday Dinner – 5pm

7:55pm Steve called the meeting to a close