



RUTHERFORD CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES – April 20, 2022

Topic: Rutherford Civil Rights Commission’s Meeting

Beverly Khan Pal	Matt Cokeley (Council Liaison)
Steve Way	Jessica Warren Frazier
Renjith Pillai	Sam Riviello
Alcides Aguasvivas	Lauren Caliolio
Shefali Pilar - absent	
Ginny Perrin	
Christie Del Rey-Cone - absent	
Mark Tenn - absent	
Lori Rosario-Griffin - absent	
Jessica Lezcano - absent	
Paul Frazier	
Sami Abuauad	
Esther Gatria	

*Present – highlighted

- Meeting called to order at 6:36pm
- Minutes from March 2022 reviewed
 - Esther motioned to accept the minutes, Alcides seconded
- Ginny reports she spoke with Alma regarding the Disabilities Pride event scheduled for 5/1/22 in Montclair. They are getting a sign language interpreter, bringing various groups together.
- Steve met with Galloway regarding first Black families in Rutherford and whether their stories are being told accurately. Galloway sent an agenda for a 90-minute meeting to RCRC with hopes to set up a date to review the agenda.
- National Night Out – questions arose on whether RCRC should participate. Event is centered around police safety awareness and runs Aug. 2 from 6-8pm, featuring children’s rides, first responders’ vehicles.
 - It offers an opportunity for community members and officers to get to know one another.
 - We will politely decline table as of now.

- Multicultural Festival – dates set for September 9 & 10.
 - Discussion centered around need for RCRC to clarify goals and message prior to securing acts/vendors and make sure everything we do comes from civil rights focus. Goal should be to make it entertaining but with clear focus.
 - Part 2 of retreat (4/27) - should help narrow down ideas while highlighting where the festival came from and where we're going
- Juneteenth - Actual holiday is the 19th but is federally acknowledged June 20th. This will be the third year in a row RCRC has been asked by Mt. Ararat Baptist Church to partner for an event.
 - Questions arose around goals and involving liaison through local college students.
- Ed from Historic Preservation Committee spoke about the Eastern Way Black History Plaque, which was dedicated May 23, 1992 to African American families residing in the vicinity since 1900. This year will mark 30th anniversary of the dedication and the HPC so “save the date” and Lauren will keep us up to speed on upcoming plans.
- Second retreat meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 4/27 at 40 Park Ave, 3rd Floor, entrance by Pancake House.
- Next Meeting is May 18
 - Topics for next meeting include
 - Continue conversation on Multicultural Festival
 - Juneteenth
 - Financial Guidelines
 - Overview of retreat
 - Goals for next 3-6 months
 - Discussion re archives – Billy Neuman assistance?
- Meeting closed at 7:35 pm