

Meeting Place: Remote

Meeting Called To Order: 6:03, Monday, November 16, 2020

Role Call: Loreen Flockerzie, Daniel Yalowitz, Maureen Lyons, Tracey Burley, Peter Michael Smith, Carolyn McDaniel, Wendy Goodman, Wid Perry,

Not Present: Kaj Pratt

Others Present: Michael Pattavina, Concerned Citizen

A motion was made to approve the October Minutes, seconded and approved.

Michael Pattavina wanted to address an issue he had with a neighbor regarding the parking of cars on the public street in front of their houses. A confrontation took place and vulgar hateful language was used by the neighbor.

Michael was directed to the HRC when he sent an e-mail to the Mayor's Office regarding the incident.

Michael was uncertain of the process and confused by the steps taken by the HRC prior to him meeting with us (contact was made with the HRC Police Liaison Officer which Michael was not sure he endorsed).

Michael saw the issue as a communication problem within the community – concerned about stopping such verbal confrontations in the future in the community.

HRC Suggestions: Police Involvement, Court.

Michael's remedy: HRC Letter to neighbor or mediation. Michael might be interested in mediation if the neighbor showed remorse/interest, otherwise Michael would want the neighbor to leave him alone.

Michael's issue is also a community issue.

Issue: Better relationship vs. No relationship, but Michael won't know until the Police report on issue – do the neighbors deny the issue or are they willing to discuss? Michael would like to know why the vulgar language was used.

Michael left the meeting and the Group processed the conversation:

- There was background noise during the conversation – it is important to remember to stay muted when we are not directly talking to avoid feedback and background noise.

- Some members felt we were defensive in our response to Michael. We could have done a better job in listening to his story and identifying with it instead of getting bogged down in process and technical reasoning.
- We need to do a better job in explaining the process (on our website) so citizens know what to expect when they contact the HRC (or Mayor's Office). We need to make it clear that there is a Police Liaison so people are informed and not surprised.
- We need to be compassionate but accurate in our procedures and consistent in our presentation (while being mindful of requirements, open meeting laws, etc.).
- What is the role of the Police Liaison and do we have a say in who it is? Should we invite the Police Liaison on as a need basis or should he be present at all meetings?
- Do we play a role with Community Policing? Do we want to embrace a Police presence?

Update on Greenfield Homeless (a critical issue for Greenfield): DHCD funds several agencies to provide the large share of homeless services, including Servicenet (the primary agency), CHD, CSO, Salvation Army, Eliot Homeless and Dial Self.

Greenfield has been working with SNET and the other agencies to improve the homelessness response, including the SNET Homeless Shelter on Wells Street, Salvation Army Warming Center. COVID has presented some challenges with safe distancing concerns – SNET is increasing its shelter beds from 20 to 35. There is also a contingency with the Salvation Army to cover hotel rooms in dangerously cold weather.

Update on Educational Piece for Newspaper: Loreen continues to work with Keith Barnicle on this project.

Updates From Commissioners on previously discussed items: The retreat subcommittee met twice (Pete, Daniel, Wendy, Carolyn) on Zoom to discuss the possibility of the Commission to meet in a retreat format to get to know each other and learn about each other in order to build trust and relationships. The format would use structure sharing and exercises to explore what we want to be as a Commission and what we as individuals bring to the team. We start with

ourselves and move to commission goals. We want to structure the retreat to be safe and comfortable.

We need to hear from Kaj and Emily. (Emily is a new commission member who will serve in an alternate capacity).

The group will meet for the Retreat on Monday, December 7, 2020 on webex. The subgroup will provide advance agenda items (questions to consider, etc.)

New Business:

- Concerns raised about lighting on cross walks downtown. This is an issue for the DPW Safety Committee.
- Regarding the HRC Website, would commissioners be interested in providing biographical information to the public? Agreed to discuss this concept further at the December 14th meeting.
- Our website needs to include specific information regarding when a complaint is filed with the HRC.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded and approved, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Next (Regular) Meeting: Monday, December 14th 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Submit agenda items to Loreen.

Next Meeting: Retreat Meeting Monday, December 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.