

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Purpose: To promote human rights, personal dignity, and positive relations between all residents and visitors to the Town of Maynard.

Meeting Date: Monday June 8th 2020, 7pm

Location: Zoom

Members Present:

Chris DiSilva

Kathleen FitzGerald (Co-Chair)

Michael Lisasa

Caroline Mahiti

Michael Noble

Eliot Prisby (Clerk)

Rachel Tryba (Co-Chair)

Guests:

Amanda Armsby

Holly Blomster

Jane Bramberg

Lydia Clancy

Maggie Day

Betsey Gardstein

Vivian Hood

Bill McLaughlin

Marya McLaughlin

Matthe McLaughlin

Karen Ross

Nicole Souza

M. Starkey

Jeff Swanberg

I. CALL TO ORDER, LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A. Called to order at 7:00pm by Ms. Tryba.

B. Explanation of online meeting rules by Ms. Tryba.

- C. Ground rules by Ms. Tryba.
 - D. Land acknowledgment by Ms. Tryba.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (March 3rd 2020 HRC Meeting Minutes)
- A. Ms. Tryba motioned to approve minutes. Mr. Prisby seconded.
- III. DISCUSSION: Update on Immigration and Documentation Policy of the Maynard Police Department, pertinent to the purpose of the Committee or as discussed at the Special Town Meeting held October 28th 2019
- A. The Committee agreed to make the reporting section of the policy quarterly instead of yearly.
 - B. Ms. Tryba suggested translating the document to Spanish and Portuguese. Ms. Mahiti suggested asking the ACLU. Committee members discussed reaching out to the community for translation options.
- IV. DISCUSSION: Reflection on the ongoing crisis and unrest in the nation and the impact on Maynard residents and visitors.
- A. Mr. Lisasa praised the MPD for its statement regarding the murder of George Floyd. Ms. FitzGerald called for action beyond protests, offered books, movies. Mr. Prisby and Mr. Noble suggested panels or forums. Mr. Lisasa supported public education for problems of racism and white supremacy.
- V. NEW BUSINESS
- A. The committee discussed the idea of a book club.
 - B. Mr. Prisby emphasized the importance of amplifying vulnerable and under-represented voices.
 - C. Ms. Tryba suggested investigating research regarding data and statistics behind racial violence and police brutality.
 - D. Ms. FitzGerald suggested movies as well.
 - E. The Committee discussed how to choose books and ways in which members could read them in a timely fashion. Mr. Noble will encourage police officers to get involved.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- A. Bill & Patty McLaughlin: It could be a challenge to get people to participate in a book group - suggested “educational series” including film, guest speakers, excerpt readings. Also suggested approaching Fine Arts Theatre Place for showing documentaries.

- B. Maggie Day: Thanked the Committee for the Land Acknowledgment, emphasized the need for education regarding indigenous people. Supported the idea of a book club.
- C. Marya McLaughlin: Supported Maggie's suggestion of following up with the indigenous forum in Bedford, and supported Bill McLaughlin's suggestion of an educational series. Emphasized involving younger people.
- D. Nicole Souza: Offered to share a list of age-divided, culturally authentic books she has acquired through her job. Emphasized the importance of common language in regards to racism, implicit bias, and moving on to concrete action.
- E. Lisa McLaughlin: Suggested reaching out to local educators to help form a curriculum. Suggested a public compilation. Warned against means-tested participation. Suggested involving local businesses in educational series. Recommends the author John Lewis. She is a translator and willing to help translate sanctuary policy into Spanish.
- F. Sheila & Robinson Phicil: Appreciate conversations and ideas being discussed. Commend the town for being welcoming and performance by the police department. Recommend the book "How to Be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi.
- G. Jeff Swanberg: Thanked Chief Noble for the police statement regarding the death of George Floyd. Suggested the Friends of Film Group associated with Fine Arts Theatre Place, and conversations to take place at downtown businesses, which are struggling due to COVID-19. Suggests speaking to Jerry Beck of ArtSpace Maynard regarding collaboration.
- H. Karen Ross: The Maynard Anti-Racism Alliance has worked with Fine Arts Theatre Place and Fans of Film in regards to antiracism. They also have an antiracist book club. Offered MARA as a community resource around issues of racism.
- I. Danielle Pimenta: Wants to encourage the Committee to move beyond education into direction action, to reach out directly to populations the HRC is trying to support - we should be talking with vulnerable groups, not over them.
- J. Amanda Armsby: Encouraged a research and data-based approach. Encouraged the Committee to seek information, be creative, and think broadly while tackling these issues.
- K. Maggie Day: Would like to know if a Land Acknowledgment will be made at the Special Town Meeting. Also interested in replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day. Mr. DiSilva suggested reaching out to Town Moderator Dick Downey.

VII. ADJOURN

- A. Mr. Noble reflected that the sort of situation we are in is exactly why the Committee was created. Ms. Tryba agreed.
- B. Next meeting set for Monday July 13th 2020 at 7pm.
- C. Ms. Tryba motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:31pm. Mr. Prisby seconded.