



ATTLEBORO COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING INFORMATION

Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Location: Zoom virtual meeting

Time: 6:30-8pm

Meeting Type: Council on Human Rights Monthly Meeting

Attendees: ACHR members: Steve Berdos, Mary Flaherty, Barbara Clark, & Stephanie Gray. Laurie Sawyer, Chairperson. Guests: Evan Laferriere, Heather Rockwood, Metheu, Richard, Mirelle, Jonas, Miju, Sara, Mateus, Ricardo, Richard, Mica, Martha, Marcos, Ruan.

- I. Chairperson Laurie Sawyer opened the meeting
- II. **VOTE:** Approve meeting minutes from June 16, 2021 meeting
 - a. YAY: Stephanie Gray, Laurie Sawyer, Steve Berdos, Mary Flaherty, Barbara Clark
 - b. NAY: none
- III. Juneteenth debrief
- IV. **VOTE:** to hold a joint presentation with the Commission on Disabilities on MCAD: Know Your Rights Against Discrimination
 - a. YAY: Stephanie Gray, Laurie Sawyer, Steve Berdos, Mary Flaherty, Barbara Clark
 - b. NAY: none
- V. Housing concerns meeting with Mayor Heroux debrief
 - a. City plans to do a housing needs assessment
 - i. Consulting group will take inventory
 - ii. How many units, what are the rents
 - iii. What is on the horizon?
 - b. 5-year waitlist for low-income housing currently
 - c. The city considers homelessness and overdevelopment its top 2 housing concerns
 - d. Mayor plans to start an advisory group on homelessness and task force on poverty
 - e. Tecia Silva and Paul Dumouchel are two contacts within City Hall on these issues
 - f. Manet Health going in downtown – mental health facility
 - g. Next step: planning credit workshop – can host at City Hall, per Mayor Heroux
- VI. Sandcastle
 - a. Recently sold, residents are in danger of losing their homes
 - b. Legislation is stalled at the State House due to COVID
 - c. Rent control bill is not in place, no protections for mobile home park residents

- VII. Annual Report – need:
 - a. First page edits
 - b. Term dates for each council member
- VIII. Bylaws – Barbara will contact Juliet Teixeira
- IX. Future events – Human Rights Day to be discussed at our next meeting
- X. Open forum
 - a. Heather Rockwood spoke about the Jewelry City Steampunk festival and how to make it more inclusive to POC and disabled folks
 - b. Evan Laferriere – wants to advocate for GATRA to increase routes
 - i. Lower ecological impact
 - ii. More accessible for low-income folks
- XI. VOTE: to end the meeting
 - a. YAY: Stephanie Gray, Laurie Sawyer, Steve Berdos, Mary Flaherty, Barbara Clark
 - b. NAY: none

Action items:

1. Laurie will find term dates for council members to put into the annual report
2. Stephanie will send the annual report to members
3. Barbara will contact Juliet Teixeira to see if she knows council bylaws
4. Plan credit workshop

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 from 6:30-8pm