

CITY OF LACONIA – HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
February 9, 2021 3pm - Monthly Meeting
Via Zoom
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. David Stamps welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Laconia Human Relations Committee. Committee member roll call was taken, a quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 3:00pm. The Chair reviewed procedures related to public access to electronic meetings as required under Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12.

II. ATTENDANCE

- a. Present - Chair David Stamps, Carol Pierce, Rev. Judith Wright, David Osman, Janet Simmon, Matt Soza, Margaret Donnelly, Kate Bruchacova
- b. Excused –Carrie Chandler

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES & FINANCIALS

- a. Minutes of December 8, 15 & 17, 2020 & January 12, 2021 were approved
- b. Financials for 2021, 2nd quarter were approved

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **MLK Celebration Review**
The general sentiment expressed was that it went well, and despite the challenges of Covid and the need to use Zoom we were able to engage with the community and so where in the vicinity of 30+ people, including the panel, participated.
- b. **Homeless Task Force**
The Saint Joseph facility is potentially available but the group is working on securing appropriate insurance coverage, use and training protocols and related matters to actually get a functioning cold weather shelter program.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Community Engagement Program**
There was some wide ranging discussion about the scope of the general topic of "democracy" and if it might be narrowed to related but more specific themes and if the HRC is able to commit to regular presentation in some format. Many members of the committee were reluctant to commit on a long term basis at this time due to other personal demands but are open to further discussion in future meetings.
- b. **Hough Letter**
David Stamps expressed that his recent letter to the LDS about Representative Hough's criticism of a member of the Laconia community was his personal opinion and not as chair or member representative of the HRC and among other points raised was to clarify that person being criticized was not a member of the HRC.
- c. **Caste by Isabel Wilkerson**
Chairman Stamps offered his perspective of Isabel Wilkerson's recent book "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent." Others, including those observers invited to participate toward the conclusion of the meeting, expressed their respect for and/ or interest in this publication and Ms. Wilkerson.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public were invited to offer their opinions and several offered comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rev. Judith Wright, seconded by David Osman, to adjourn the meeting; and with no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:30p by the Chair.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 3p, via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

by David Osman and David Stamps