

# Laconia Human Relations Committee

## April 10, 2023 - Meeting Minutes

### I. CALL TO ORDER

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 3:34 pm.

### II. ATTENDANCE

Present – Mayor Andrew Hosmer, Chair David Stamps, Matt Soza, Pat Wood, David Osman, Kay Anderson, Trish Weatherbee, Rev. Judith Wright, Heather Stanley and Carrie Chandler

Zoom – Carol Pierce

Excused – Janet Simmon, Linda Thanas and Seifu Ragassa

### III. OLD BUSINESS

Minutes Approval – **A motion was made by Pat Wood, seconded by David Osman, to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2023 Laconia Human Relations Committee; with no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.**

Sub-Committee Work:

Martin Luther King Jr Celebration – Rev. Judith Wright stated the following business was discussed at their April meeting:

- Judith has been appointed as Chair
- Group will meet once a month
- Theme for January 2024 is “We are all connected around the world”
- Looking into use of the Colonial Theatre
- Next program is in planning stages – including inviting school age children to display theme related artwork

Business Sticker Campaign – still underway, please continue this effort. Once all stickers have been delivered, we can revisit purchasing additional for local businesses. It is best to speak with someone who can make decision versus leaving a sticker and letter to be forwarded to management.

Genocide Awareness Program

- Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 4-6p at the Congregational Church
- 2-hour program sponsored by Temple B’Nai Israel, Congregational Church and Laconia Human Relations Committee
- Bonnie Abrams will be the featured entertainment
- Invite Matt Canfield to attend
- Create a group email to include community agencies and churches

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

Pride Flag – reviewed the proposal developed by Howard Chandler for how to make decisions for various types of flags/banners (religious and political flags excluded). There can be issues with hanging various flags/banners on public property – that is why it is important to have policy. Members are encouraged to attend the City Council Meeting this evening. **A motion was made by Pat Wood, seconded by Matt Soza, for the chair to attend the April 10<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting to discuss the draft policy for consideration and ask that the pride flag be displayed again this June; with no further discussion, the motion past with one abstention.** The group expressed thanks to Howard for outlining the proposal for committee consideration.

Committee Mission/Vision Statement – there was discussion but no recommended changes.

Hate Images - David and Matt were contacted by the Boston Globe for statement. The Daily Sun has not published the LHRC statement drafted in response.

Future Meeting topics to include – elections and succession planning.

#### V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present for public comment.

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by David Stamps at 4:27p.

***Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2023, 3:30p, City Hall Room 200A and via zoom invite.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Chandler,  
Recording Secretary