

Laconia Human Relations Committee

May 15, 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 3:33 pm.

II. ATTENDANCE

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

Excused – Janet Simmon, Linda Thanas and Seifu Ragassa

III. OLD BUSINESS

Minutes Approval – **A motion was made by Matt Soza, seconded by Mayor Hosmer, to accept the minutes of the April 10, 2023 Laconia Human Relations Committee; with no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.**

Flag Proposal (Pride Flag) – the LHRC presented a policy to City Council for review. At the request of City Council, the Mitchell group developed another policy for discussion at this evening's City Council meeting; which includes the allowance of approved flags at Veteran's Square (flag pole near the railroad station, Congregational Church and bank). Requests to be submitted to the City Manager who decides what and for how long (not to exceed 31 days). Members of the Laconia Human Relations committee may express their opinions about this at the May 24th meeting; there is a strong desire to have the pride flag hang at City Hall as it did last year.

Unhoused Population – this has been an important matter under the Mayor's Taskforce on Housing. There is currently a large encampment of approximately 100 homeless persons - and a neighboring community affected. This issue is incredibly challenging and requires us all to work together – public and private sector.

Sub-Committee Work:

Martin Luther King Jr Celebration – Sunday, January 14, 2024

Rev. Judith Wright shared the following updates:

- Theme: "We are all connected"
- There will be different displays
- Creating a flyer
- Looking for a native American to open the celebration
- Met with Steve Tucker and Bob Champlin
- Music including school bands, choirs and other musicians
- Artists from the community invited to participant
- May invite someone from the Poverty Law Center to speak prior to the event

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 – the event was successful and highly attended.

Committee Mission/Vision Statement – Trish Weatherbee reviewed proposed changes for discussion. There was additional feedback. Trish will provide David with the discussed changes.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Succession Planning - David Stamps announced that he will be stepping down as chair at the end of the year. David has been outlining the operations pertaining to the role of chair to help the transition.

Nov 9-10: Kristallnacht – the LHRC would like to offer help in whatever way.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present for public comment.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by David Stamps at 4:47p.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 12, 2023, 3:30p, City Hall Room 200A and via zoom invite.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Chandler,
Recording Secretary