

## Laconia Human Relations Committee (LHRC)

### July 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 3:30 pm.

#### II. ATTENDANCE

Present – Mayor Andrew Hosmer, Chair David Stamps, David Osman, Matt Soza, Carol Pierce, Pat Wood, Rev. Judith Wright, Linda Thanas, Carrie Chandler and Mark Haynes (Guest)

Excused – Seifu Ragassa, Trish Weatherbee, Kay Anderson, Janet Simmon and Heather Stanley

#### III. OLD BUSINESS

Minutes Approval – **Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2023 LHRC; with no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.**

Financial Report - As of June 30, 2023 there is a balance of \$3,652.98. **Motion was made and seconded to accept the LHRC Financial Report as written; with no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.**

LRHC Mission and Vision Statements – new version is in effect.

Kristallnacht – there is no update.

Sub-Committee Work:

Martin Luther King Jr Celebration – enthusiasm for this event continues to grow. The school Superintendent and teachers support involvement with plans to incorporate the theme into the school year. We will celebrate the life and teachings of MLKJ through art, music, dance, responsive readings, etc. Interaction will be encouraged. Publicity will be arranged - “as a community we believe in education.” The Southern Poverty Law Center may be involved on some level.

Business Sticker Campaign – still in progress.

Pride Banner – Pat Wood attended a recent council meeting to further attempt to educate around the LHRC’s request to hang the pride banner and support the LGBTQ+ community. The decision was made by the City Council, as a whole, not to hang the pride banner off City Hall or Veteran’s Square. The committee discussed the potential confusion of raising Veteran’s Square as an option and the term “flag” versus banner. The Council has agreed to meet with a

sub-committee of the LHRC to work on a policy together. **Motion was made and seconded to appoint Pat Wood, David Osman, Carrie Chandler and Howard Chandler (if willing) to represent the LHRC on this sub-committee; with no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.**

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

There is a Diversity and Inclusion Committee at the school level – includes parents, teachers, administrators and students.

##### Committee Makeup

1. We should strive for more diversity in the LHRC membership.
2. Active attendance is important for a vital LHRC. If inactive, there should be some discussion around continuing on as a full member.

Terrorism – how should the LHRC respond to local hate activity? David Osman shared a guide from the Southern Poverty Law Center for how a group can respond (ie. 1. You do respond. 2. Quickly, 3. Don't confront, etc.). **Motion was made and seconded to appoint Pat Wood to represent us on the Government Ops Committee; with no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.**

#### V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was opportunity but no public comments were made.

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by David Stamps at 4:45p.

***Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 14, 2023, 3:30p, City Hall Room 200A and via zoom invite.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Chandler,  
Recording Secretary