

Farmington Human Relations Commission  
Minutes  
June 8, 2020  
On-line Web Conference

Commission Members Present: Jay Tulin, Zalman Nakhimovsky, Donna Mambrino, Lisa Pawlik, Christine Mergenthaler, Kay Higgins and Ruth Grobe.

Town of Farmington: Nancy Parent (Community & Recreational Services), Zack Martin (Police Dept) and Joe Capodiferro (Town Council)

Jay Tulin called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

**Public Comment:**

Beth Kintner, 24 Farmstead Lane Farmington – Made a statement of support for the commission as well as for the new group that is being formed by the council.

**Minutes:**

Upon a motion made by Christine Mergenthaler and seconded by Ruth Grobe the minutes from January 22, 2020 were approved as presented.  
Unanimously approved.

**Chair Report:**

Jay Tulin thanked Ruth Grobe for her commitment and work for the HRC over the years and thanked all the commissioners for their support. He then explained that C.J. Thomas contacted him about the forming of a committee to develop a call to action around on racism. The Human Relations Commission will have a representative on this committee.

**Update from Police Department**

Zack Martin reported on the police department activities. He further went on to explain use of force and outlined the process and the “pillars” of the accreditation process.

**Update from Department of Community & Recreational Services**

Nancy Parent informed the Commission of Community & Recreation activities including fuel assistance, COVID related programming and an update on service delivery.

**Update from Town Council**

Joe Capodiferro further supported HRC’s involvement on the new racism committee being formed. He assured everyone that it is a high priority for the council.

**Update of CC=A**

Ruth Grobe gave an update on the meetings with UCONN students and patient care with all populations.

New Business -

**Needs Assessment**

Nancy Parent gave an update on the needs assessment project. The intern who had been working on it had to stop because of the college closing down due to COVID. Parent and staff will continue over the summer and present in September.

**Relevant Topics/Hate Crimes/Racism**

Jay Tulin introduced the discussion by reminding the commissioners about the new committee. The commissioners had a discussion regarding programming, committee and support of the town

addressing the issue. While it wasn't public comment the discussion included residents on the online meeting to be a part of the discussion.

Kay Higgins – commissioner; spoke about the important of listening and outreach and allowing all voices to be heard.

Kayla Davis – resident; supporting more conversations and shared her experience in Farmington.

Jessica Harrison – resident; further supporting the important of listening; and shared her experience in Farmington and gave information about a group that she is involved in (Parents of Black and Brown Children) She also gave her contact information to be involved.

**HRC input on Town Ordinances:**

Jay Tulin introduced the idea of weighing in on town ordinances.

**BOE representative**

The commission discussed asking for a representative. Parent will request.

Ellen Siuta – BOE; Thanked the commission for all their hard work. Gave a little overview of the last few months.

Old Business -

**Update on Accessibility Consultant for FHSBC**

Jay Tulin updated everyone on status of the letter to the committee encouraging the use of a consultant.

Lisa Pawlik – commissioner; asked that in the future if letters are sent out on behalf of the commission that her name is not on them unless she gives permission.

**Friends/FHS activities**

No discussion as school was closed with COVID.

**Human Rights Day – Dec 10<sup>th</sup>**

Jay Tulin discussed asked for town to develop proclamation regarding HRD. The committee had some discussion on proclamations, programming and determining goals.

**Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Donna Mambrino and seconded by Christine Mergenthaler the meeting was adjourned at 8:46.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Parent, Secretary