

Minutes

Town of Farmington, CT
Human Relations Commission
Online Web Conference
January 24, 2022
6:30 pm

Commission Attendees

Jay Tulin
Andrew Arboe
Donna Mambrino
Anne Newbury
Zalman Nakhimovsky

Town of Farmington

Nancy Parent (Community & Rec Services)
Zach Martin (Police Department)

Guests

Kathryn Krajewski (Asst. Town Manager)
Russ Arnold (Director of Public Works)

Absent:

Joe Capodiferro (Town Council)

A. Call to Order

Tulin called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

B. Presentation: Update on Village Center project by Kat Krajewski & Russ Arnold

Tulin introduced Kathryn Krajewski (Assistant Town Manager) and Russ Arnold (Director of Public Works).

Krajewski & Arnold presented on the Village Center project.

- a. Krajewski reviewed where the funds are coming from (town & grants)
- b. Arnold Summarized the bids that the Town has received. Construction will begin end of March/beginning of April. They will coordinate with the businesses involved. All new handicap ramps will be installed as required. Crosswalks will all be replaced. Sidewalks will be replaced up to the residential driveways and will match into the blacktop. Will work DOT for inspection. Project is expected to be complete by Nov. 1, 2022.
- c. Ruth Grobe asked what percentage of the sidewalk can be widened? Arnold said the sidewalks will be widened to 5 feet for 95% of them, except to go around tree.

- C. Before moving on to public comment, Tulin announced Lisa Pawlicki has stepped down from her position on the Human Relations committee and there is now a vacant spot to be filled.

D. Public comment

None.

E. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to table the approval of the minutes from the November 22, 2021.

F. Reports

- 1) Chair Report
 - a. High school social justice club will present the commission in March.

- b. Arboe will join the commission at the May meeting to speak about driving with Autism
- c. Riju Dass would like to connect with the commission about collaboration in regards to CHLO in March or May.
- d. Tulin has been working with a group about accessibility of medical diagnostic equipment.
- e. Building committee – advocating for ADA compliance, universal design. The committee will give feedback about what needs to be tweaked.
- f. Tulin & Parent met with the state HRC collaboration group and spoke about the national holocaust remembrance alliance, which had a great conversation.
 - i. Newbury loved the meeting and said it was very moving.
- g. Jan 27 is international Holocaust Remembrance Day. An event sponsored by United Nations, as well as Voices of Hope on Jan. 30. Tulin will participate in both.
- h. Mentioned the infrastructure bill and language in the about the pedestrian rights of way which was changed to the “Complete Streets” program. Tulin inquired with Rick Lobes as to if this would impact the existing program, and the answer was there is a planned Hearing on Feb. 4 to talk about this. Tulin will attend this call and offered to the committee if anyone would like to attend.

2) Department Of Social Services

- a. Working hard on distributing Covid-19 test kits who are homebound as well as congregate facilities. Currently getting them out to people who meet the needs of a test.
- b. Fuel bank is getting busy again. Between 25-30 new referrals in the couple weeks following the holidays. Examples of needs are hoarding, healthcare needs.
- c. Senior Center is still holding events, with some being virtual.

3) Town Council Liaison

- a. Capodifero absent at meeting.
- b. Tulin mentioned at the last meeting, Town Council voted to appoint an ad hoc committee in regards to the 1928 building. No charge has been developed yet.

4) Police Department

- a. Participated in food drive for Thanksgiving & Christmas Holiday.
- b. Participated with CERT team & Highway dept. in distributing COVID-19 tests and N95 masks.
- c. Planning on collaborating with commission in the spring for the pedestrian crosswalk laws. Deploying LED sign trailer at the major crosswalks on a weekly basis. Possibly a day with heavy enforcement on all the major crosswalks.
- d. Reviewed needs assessment report and forwarded it to the command staff at the PD. Might add something to the newsletter about making complaints, being a very transparent department.

5) Racial Equality Task Force

- a. Next meeting will be Monday, January 31, 2022.
- b. Website will be release by the end of the week.
- c. Partnering with the historical society and have found out some people of color have some high achievement but have never had publicity about it. Will be adding this to the website.

- d. Community Conversation was postponed and changed to a 3-part over the next few months.
- e. Just started information series to Black Owned Business which will also include surrounding towns to find out ways we can be more attractive to both businesses as well as residential buyers to create as diverse a community as we can.

G. New Business

None.

H. Old Business

- 1) Parent reviewed the HRC goals and requested suggestions to add, specifically for networking
- 2) Continued discussion about the rating scale.
 - a. Parent reviewed Wethersfield Human Rights & Relations Commission Facebook page which is a good example of social media posts.
 - b. Parent narrowed down the list for yearly public recognitions to include categories such as health awareness, community information, social justice/human rights.
 - c. A motion was made and seconded (Mambrino, Newbury) that the holiday & yearly recognitions that Farmington Community Services posts on Facebook, the Human Relations Commission should share the posts on their website as well. Unanimously approved.
 - d. A motion was made and seconded (Newbury, Mambrino) to approve the commitment to do the full programs for voter disability registration and human rights, as well as other days that will be culturally celebrated through social media posts and a public statement at the Human Relations Committee meeting. Unanimously approved.

I. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded (Nakhimovsky, Mambrino) to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Parent, Secretary