

Minutes

Town of Farmington, CT
Human Relations Commission
Online Web Conference
November 22, 2021
6:30 pm

Commission Attendees

Jay Tulin
Andrew Arboe
Anne Newbury
Lisa Pawlick

Town of Farmington

Nancy Parent (Community & Rec Services)
Joe Capideffro Town Council

Guests

Gary Gross

Absent:

Donna Mambrino
Zach Martin (Police Department)
Zalman Nakhimovsky

A. **Call to Order**

Tulin called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

B. **Presentation: Gary Gross, New Horizons resident on CC=A**

Tulin introduced Gary Gross, who presented on CC=A.

ADA transportation only provides transportation to mimic public transportation. ADA will not operate on Saturdays & Sundays because of this. CC=A will be requesting the town council to address the issue by expanding the public transportation to weekend.

CC=A working on medical equipment to make it easier for people with public access. They are also looking into training for medical professionals in working with people with disabilities.

C. **Public comment**

Tom Schulz from Clinton Human Rights committee spoke about looking to meet new people who are doing similar things in different towns. You can access their information on the Town of Clinton website.

D. **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded (Arboe, Newbury) to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2021 meeting as presented. Unanimously approved.

E. **Reports**

1) Chair Report

- a. Tulin was contacted by a member of the community in regards to Dewali. An effort has been made to have Dewali approved as recognized holiday.
- b. Myra Clark Seigel presented to the Town Council about the state of anti-semitism. Tulin has been collecting information on this about possibly supporting this. Myra is strongly encouraging municipalities to adopt this.

- c. Lamont appointed a hate crime task force. Tulin has connected with a couple people on the task force (concentrating on police training & schools)
- d. Village Center and sidewalk project – at recent town council meetings the subject has been brought up. Town has a plan to start in the spring, Tulin is requesting Kat Krajewski to address the committee about the plans.
- e. Infrastructure bill was signed on November 19, 2021 by Biden. There is language in the bill having to do with the Complete Streets Program, that monitors the accessibility of the streets. Tulin volunteered to collect information to see if the language in the bill may impact the strategy of how the dept. of transportation might prove accessibility for everyone, in particular people with disabilities.
- f. Facebook page is up and running for the commissioners collaborative.

2) Department Of Social Services

- a. Finishing up the Thanksgiving Holiday Program. About 800 families impacted by the holiday baskets.
- b. Food pantry donations will also be ramped up after the December.
- c. Parent has been appointed as ADA coordinator and has been through the first wave of training for certification.
- d. Parent is working on form a committee of disabled residents and will be doing an analysis.
- e. Just notified that a benefactor will be giving us money toward the Dial-A-Ride program.
- f. New skateboard park is in the works. Soliciting comment/feedback on what the community would like to see.

3) Town Council Liaison

- a. Town Council meeting was held.
- b. Big projects will be started at beginning of the year.
- c. Sidewalks – Kat Krajewski has information. Has been pushed out because no one is bidding on it. Hopefully project will start in the spring.

4) Police Department

- a. Parent reported on behalf of Martin. Martin met with the chief about the filming of some of the pedestrian regulations (3 minute clips, Did you know?). Framework has been put in place for the PSA's.

5) Racial Equality Task Force

- a. Presentation will be held in December for Human Rights Day. At that meeting, racism will be declared as a public health crisis.
- b. Starting back Community Conversations which will be held Dec. 15th, called courageous conversation, specifically around the holidays. How to have these conversations and what does that mean as you talk about race.
- c. Webpage should be released after approval from the Task Force at the next meeting.

F. New Business

None.

G. Old Business

- 1) Human Rights Day – the same type of presentation will be used again. Parent showed the presentation that will be used at the meeting.
- 2) Parent presenting on the rating scale for yearly recognitions.
 - a. Pawlick mentioned she struggles with using social media for this rating scale. She would rather have a strong focus on helping the town’s disabled residents.
 - b. A motion was made and seconded (Pawlick, Burhoe) to table consideration of the rating scale until the next meeting.
- 3) Continue discussion of the four goals of 2022, including adding subgoals. (1. Public recognition about the HRC, 2. Education & information, 3. Networking, 4. Grievance procedure)
 - a. Tulin would like to see the committee connect with the “Friends Program” at the high school.

H. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded (Pawlicki, Newbury) to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm.
Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Parent, Secretary