

MEETING NOTES

Town of Hartford Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion (HCOREI)

Hartford Town Hall and Zoom

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

In Attendance

- Committee Members: Sara Campbell - Chair, Molly Armbrust – Vice-Chair/Student Liaison, Pat Autilio – Clerk, Lannie Collins, Ally Tufenkjian, Miriam Wood
- Community Members: Michelle Boleski, John Hall, Kim Souza

Agenda Topic

6:02 PM Call to Order

- Approve Meeting Minutes 4/5 – **Motion: Pat, 2nd: Lannie – unanimous voice approval**

6:03 PM Acknowledge and welcome community members

6:04 PM General Updates

- Joint School/Selectboard meeting (Proposed)
 - Discussions are underway, but not scheduled yet.
 - HCOREI can contribute to the agenda for that meeting, topics including:
 - Expanding charter for HCOREI
 - Quarterly HCOREI update (regularly would happen in May)
 - Fate of Resource library
 - Scope, goals of Community Safety Review
 - **Ally will follow up with Mike on possible meeting schedule.** Late May would be good.
 - Michelle: Spoke with Mary Gannon today and she suggested using a facilitator for the meeting with selectboard and school board
- School Board Updates
 - Membership
 - Michelle: The school board will talk about new HCOREI liaisons at their next meeting.
 - Equity Coordinator
 - Have 11 applications and are beginning to review
- Town/Selectboard Updates
 - Abundant Sun/Other Training
 - Kim: Last night, Selectboard approved (not unanimously) new trainings including conflict resolution / team building sessions. A grant is being sought from the VT Community Foundation.
 - [Discussion about lack of Selectboard support for team building/conflict resolution training.]
 - Community Safety Review –
 - Selectboard discussion pending on May 2nd about posting of CSR RFP. The police chief and fire chief will attend.
 - Lannie: Review needs to be referred to as “wellness” and “general welfare” rather than “public safety” otherwise people automatically think it’s only about police and fire departments.

- Kim: Can be called “Community Wellness Review”
- HCOREI Position Posting
 - The Selectboard discussed open positions on HCOREI and other committees. Openings will be posted on social media (Web site, Facebook, listservs, etc.) more regularly. There should be a formal, standard process for posting committee vacancies. Also, in the Valley News (if cost is reasonable/acceptable).
- Town Manager Search Committee
 - Sara and Kim are on the committee. Six or eight community engagement sessions have been scheduled and have begun. VLCT is collecting info from other stakeholders and then will craft a job description for the town manager position.
- Public Info Officer position
 - Ally: Town has allocated funding and needs to create the PIO job description. Can HCOREI play a role in drafting it?
 - Sara: The need for this role was made clear in recent select board meetings.
 - [Discussion of whether appropriate for HCOREI to draft a job description]
 - Lannie: Town currently has no way to prioritize tasks for Town Manager and staff, such as creating Public Info Officer description.
 - Sara: Have been trying to get approved actions such as this executed for a long time.
 - Sara will send a note with example PIO job descriptions to Selectboard leadership requesting action.
- Ann Raynolds Memoriam
 - Hartford student award
 - Mollie is working with Russ North on this.
 - School/Select Boards Resolution
 - Pat will send draft for comment to all HCOREI

6:30 PM Policy and Procedure

- *Continue* Discussion and potential recommendation to Selectboard
 - Kim: Suggests formation of an *ad hoc* town policy committee. Another separate working group can work on other items like code of conduct, rules of order
 - Committee or working group were not discussed at last night’s SB meeting.
 - Lannie: Better for Selectboard to sit with acting Town Manager and talk priorities for next six months until arrival of new town manager.
 - Michelle: Could start with revising Selectboard policies without burdening Town Manager.

[tabled] **Discuss expanding HCOREI to cover other social equity areas.**

[tabled] Working Group Check-ins

- Juneteenth
- NAACP Formation
- Education
 - Resource Library Follow up
- Membership
- Policy - on hold

7:35 PM New Business

7:40 PM Adjourn

Motion: Lannie

Tabled for future agenda.

- Community Organizing Offer
- HCOREI open position

HCOREI Members

Sara Campbell – Chair (through 4/5/2025)
Molly Armbrust, Vice Chair, Student Liaison
Pat Autilio – Clerk (through 3/7/2024)
Joe Major – (through 5/2/2024)
Miriam Wood – (through 5/2/2024)
Vacant seat for Community Member
Russell North - School board Rep
Vacant seat for School Board
Lannie Collins - Selectboard Rep
Ally Tufenkjian - Selectboard Rep
Student Liaison #2: *Vacant*