

HCOREI Meeting MINUTES

Recording:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AyjKV_eoyL4NXvipvvhfgsV7eHUKnWOZ/view?usp=sharing

Town of Hartford Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion
Wednesday August 19, 2020
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Time	Agenda Topic	Committee Action
6:00 PM	Call to Order Consent Agenda (Approve August 5, 2020 Minutes) August 5 Meeting Minutes emailed August 9, 2020	
Members Present:	Allene Swienckowski, Sara Campbell, Ann Reynolds, Joe Major, Michelle Boleski, John Hall, Giavanna Munafo, Alicia Barrows	
Motion to Approve Minutes of August 5, 2020 meeting.	Motion made by Ann and seconded by John. Motion passed unanimously	
6:05 PM	Acknowledge Community Members Community members in attendance: Pat Autilio, Audrey Devost, Peggy Richardson, Rebecca Whitney Guest: Erik Krauss Chair of Hartford's Climate Advisory Board	
6:15 PM	Climate Action Plan presented by Erik Kraus	

Presentation

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d-qH-VQlc72QS_Tb1qzB8MJeijJuOo2Oc/view?usp=sharing

Erik Krauss presented background on the creation of the ad hoc Climate Action Committee, September 2019 by both the School/Select boards.

At a Town meeting in March 2020, a joint resolution passed on the Climate Emergency and the ad hoc committee became a standing committee of the Town of Hartford with the following Charge:

- Act to carry out the resolution
- Carbon Neutral by 2027
- Collaborate with other bodies

Town submitted an RFP to create a plan; proposals due 8/31; Draft plan due Nov 2, Final due Dec. 16 of this year. Timeline based on receiving funding in 2021 is now unclear based on the effects of covid-19 on the Town's budget. Requested engagement with HCOREI as well as other groups and committees to promote awareness and to gain expertise from other town groups.

Questions:

Joe asked Erik if he could give examples of impact of Climate Change on BIPOCs, based on the reality that these individuals manifest more underlying health issues. In larger cities many BIPOCs are forced to live near toxic waste facilities or manufactures that dump their waste into nearby waterways. Most cities are without greenery (trees/grass) and with more asphalt and concrete, these conditions yield higher temps than more rural areas.

Example:

The Champlain Parkway is planned to cut through a low-income neighborhood in Burlington. <https://www.sevendaysvt.com/OffMessage/archives/2020/07/29/champlain-parkway-will-hurt-low-income-neighborhood-opponents-say>.

How does this issue relate to Hartford:

How can your committee benefit from input via outreach?

John:

Who is the target audience of the RFP? Who is submitting proposals from vendors? Who does this work?

Erik:

Consultants that work with governments and larger corporations in this subject area

John:

How will the selection process for the RFP work?

Allene:

How will the State of Vermont's statewide composting law effect your climate action plan?

Erik:

I don't have an answer at this time. An interesting question and one that deserves research.

Erik will send copy of RFP to Allene.

6:30 PM

Recent Racial Incidents in Quechee, VT

There have been several racial incidents in Quechee.

Mid-July:

A couple with a Social Justice sign in the front yard of their rental unit was told to remove the sign by the condo association president.

Club outdoor Olympic swimming pool incident where a young person wrote the "N" word on the bottom of the pool. POC were at the location.

QLLA Board President sent two emails to all Quechee Club members describing the incident and stated that this type of conduct will not be tolerated. All QLLA members, regardless of the color of their skin should be treated fairly.

Pat reported that some Quechee Club residents are in the process of forming a committee to address inequity and exclusion at the club.

This group has reached out to the board of QLLA about how they would like QLLA to handle these types of situations in the future. The group met

with the club's GM and Marketing Manager.

Several residents reported selective enforcement of QLLA's "No Out-Door Signs or Flags" rule which QLLA will now unilaterally enforce.
Ann and Rebecca applied to be on QLLA's Racial Diversity Committee.

6:52 PM Retreat Sub-Committee
Members: Giavanna, Ann, Sara, Allene

Giavanna:

Presented an overview of the program. One of the questions that should be addressed was how we individually came to social justice work. Other questions will be addressed in break-out groups. Committee members will receive the questions before the retreat on 8/30/20. If the retreat attracts community members, those community members will be in a group comprised of other community members.

Discussion:

Based on the reality of Open Meeting Laws in the State of VT, the taping of and then the posting of said recording underscored the reality that the very personal nature of these discussions, which do not involve a discussion or action that will effect or change our Charter, and that the broad subject matter of the work of racial justice is one which the body (HCOEI) does not have authority or responsibility over, despite the retreat/training will attain a quorum. The very openness of our exposure will have a negative impact in our being able to fully share, which is the point of having such an introspective space to explore these very important issues. John offered, that if the meeting is warned to a physical location which is open to the public where they can physically attend, then the meeting may not have to be recorded. John and Allene will follow up and check out the legality of said possible solution.

7:05 PM Future Meeting Dates

Set through end of December 2020

September 2nd
September 16th
October 7th
October 21st
November 4th
November 18th
December 2nd
December 16th

7:10 PM Discussion
New in-person school schedule and its negative effects on parents and

students.
Brief discussion about alternatives.

7:30 PM

Discussion
Norms:

Motion:

Motion made by Ann to postpone discussion until after retreat/
training. Seconded by Michelle. Motion passed unanimously.

Copy of previous norms can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15x-JHAdAJB2vr3HnaNRJmFh37xZWv7VBebB3s1tt4cQ/edit?usp=sharing>

There was general agreement to postpone Road Map Discussion
until after the retreat/training and to work on Action Item for
sub-committees in relation to HCOREI's Charge.

Alicia reported that "Safe Spaces" is officially a recognized group in
the State of Vermont

Ann reported that the Social Equity Caucus would like help going
through comments from the Police Reform survey they sent out.
Let Ann know if you'd like to help.

Ann and Allene testified at one of 3 hearings held by the Judiciary
and Government Operations Legislative Committees.

7:40 PM

Adjournment