

Borough of Carlisle
Human Relations Commission
Meeting Minutes
February, 2, 2021

This meeting was held via Zoom due to the restrictions of social distancing put in place due to Covid-19.

Present at the meeting: Commission members Nancy Gregor, James Hamblin, Safronia Perry, Carlos Rojas-Gaona, Wanda Hunter, Officer Rucinsky, Borough Manager Armstrong, Assistant Borough Manager Snyder and Borough Secretary Stone.

- I. Approval of Minutes
 - a. The Commission voted 4-0 to approve the November 10, 2020 Human Relations Commission meeting minutes.

- II. Training for New Commissioners and Alternates
 - a. Commissioner Rojas-Gaona will be developing a PowerPoint for use in training new commissioners and the intake person.

- III. Carlisle Borough Town Hall on Racial Equality
 - a. It was noted that those who attended the January 16, 2021 Town Hall meeting were pleased with the discussions that were held. Borough Manager Armstrong stated that Borough Council will present a draft resolution proposing a Truth and Reconciliation Commission be established in the Borough. Commissioner Hunter remarked that she was pleased to see the cross-section of diversity of attendees at the meeting. Her hope is those that spoke will continue their presence, speak up with concerns and make connections in the Borough.

 - b. Commissioner Hunter suggested highlighting Black History Month on the Borough's website. Borough Manager Armstrong supported that idea and recommended that information be sent to the Borough to be placed on the Borough's social media and website.

Borough Manager Armstrong noted the Borough's website will soon provide translation services for residents on the website.

- IV. Outreach
 - a. Black History Month Cultural Festival will not take place this year.

 - b. Updates to the HRC poster were displayed by Commissioner Rojas-Gaona. There was consensus among the Commissioners to approve the changes.

- c. Commissioner Gregor suggested information placing details of how mediation is conducted on the Borough website or HRC pamphlet.

V. Municipal Equality Index (MEI)

- a. Commissioner Hamblin remarked that the Human Rights Campaign is a nonprofit, advocacy group that scores municipalities across the country on their policies and services affecting the LGBTQ community. Borough Manager Armstrong noted over the years the Borough's MEI score has been improved, with a score in 2020 of 86.

VI. Next Meeting Date:

- a. Date for Commission approval: Tuesday, May 4, 2021

VII. Announcements

- a. Commissioner Perry has announced that she will be running for Borough Council and that she will need to step down from the HRC if she is elected.
- b. Commissioner Nancy Gregor announced her resignation from the Human Relations Commission effective February 3, 2021.

Discussion ensued regarding appointing a new chair to the commission in May. Commissioner Hamblin noted, as the next person in line for the position, he would decline the opportunity to be the next Chairperson. The Commission will discuss the appointment of a new chair at the May meeting.

VIII Public Comment

- c. Marcia Berry regarding information about NIOT (Not in Our Town) and Community Responders Network (CRN)

Ms. Berry spoke of the various groups in the community that are beginning initiatives and collaborations regarding equity and race. She recommended educating these community groups on what the HRC represents. Commissioner Rojas-Gaona offered to attend the community group meetings and share information regarding the HRC.

Susan Armstrong noted that the Borough will continue to elevate the HRC on social media. She remarked that the Borough's Public Information Coordinator Stephanie Taylor will be the Borough's liaison to the CRN. Ms. Berry remarked that going forward there will be more collaboration and coordinated efforts between all the groups' initiatives.

Borough Manager Armstrong thanked Commissioner Gregor on behalf of Borough Council, staff, and the HRC for her leadership and service on the commission. She applauded Commissioner Gregor for her extensive work building and creating the information needed to successfully launch the HRC since its formation.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 a.m.