

**Town of West Hartford
Human Rights Commission
Mission Statement**

“The West Hartford Human Rights Commission fosters mutual understanding and respect among people, and encourages equality of treatment of all people, regardless of race, color, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, civil union status, gender identity or expression, marital status, familial status, genetic information, age, economic status, lawful source of income, national origin or ancestry, or present or past history of physical, mental, intellectual or learning disability including, but not limited to blindness.”

**Town of West Hartford
Human Rights Commission
West Hartford Town Hall
7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 6, 2018
Room 217**

Final Minutes

Attendance

Krishna Adhikari	Present
Pramod Pradhan, Administrative Liaison	Present
Sarah Raskin, Secretary	Present
Judith Wyman Kelly, Co-Chair	Present
Barry Walters, Co-Chair	Present
Denise Jackson-Riley	Present

Members of the public who were present were:

Two students from Conard were here for credit for a Government class

Tracey Wilson, Town Historian

Liz Devine, Retired Teacher from Hall High School

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Judy Kelly.

1. Members of the public Tracey Wilson and Liz Devine reported on the planning of an upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr., Remembrance Day. They are suggesting a reading of the “I’ve been to the mountaintop” speech on April 3, the anniversary of when he gave the speech. They have divided the speech into 54 parts and would like 54 readers. It will be 6:00 pm. They have secured Blue Back Square as a location with a room at the library in case of inclement weather. Connecticut Center for Nonviolence will lead an activity called Building the Beloved Community.
2. Approval of the January 2, 2018 minutes. Krishna moved to approve the minutes with no changes and Judy Wyman Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approval of the February 20, 2018 minutes. Judy Wyman Kelly noted a minor change and then Judy moved to accept the minutes with that change. Krishna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Barry Walters reviewed the special meeting with the University of Hartford. There was a discussion of the suggested changes to policy made by the University and members of our Commission. There was agreement that the Commission would like to follow up with them to see what changes have been implemented and what the results were of those changes.
5. Judy Wyman Kelly gave an update on Commission vacancies. We have two openings that must come from the Republican caucus and we must wait for them to put forward candidates to the Town Council.
6. Barry Walters reviewed the current status of the Charter of Compassion. After more meetings with the Town Council it has been agreed to not do the Charter of Compassion as written but rather to create a document unique to West Hartford. It will be a resolution and will be reviewed by the Human Rights Commission before it moves forward.
7. Judy Wyman Kelly reported that some community members have approached the Board of Education to change the Board of Education calendar holiday name from Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. This will be voted upon at the March 20 Board of Education meeting. Judy Wyman moved to have the Human Rights Commission endorse this proposal. Sarah seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
8. Sarah Raskin raised the possibility of having a human rights activist from South Sudan speak while she is in West Hartford. Pramod suggested that she could speak at the library. It was agreed that the Human Rights Commission would sponsor her talk.
9. Judy Kelly discussed the idea of being more active as a Commission by having a theme each month. It was agreed that the commissioners would each send her ideas for themes.

The meeting was adjourned by Judy Kelly at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Raskin
March 6, 2018