

**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, veteran status or present or past history of physical, mental, intellectual or learning disability including, but not limited to blindness.”

Final Minutes

**West Hartford Town Hall
7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 2, 2018
Room 217**

Attendance

Krishna Adhikari	Present
Judith Borden, Chair	Present
Judith Wyman Kelly, Acting Secretary	Present
Pramod Pradhan, Administrative Liaison	Present
Karyl Shaughnessy	Present
Barry Walters	Present
Two members of the public	

- The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.
- The Nov. 14 minutes were approved, with a small correction made by Krishna.
- Annual elections for officers (2 co-chairs and 1 secretary) were conducted. Secret ballots were filled out and collected by Pramod. Absent commissioners will vote by emailing Pramod who will announce the results via email.
- New Commissioners: still waiting to hear about appointments from the Town Council.
- World AIDS Day, Dec. 1:
 - Several commissioners set up a table at Blueback during the Holiday Stroll to promote World AIDS Day and publicize the International Human Rights Day event at Faxon branch.
- International Human Rights Day, Dec. 10:
 - Faxon Branch: The Dec. 13 event was a great success. Sarah did an amazing job organizing community members to read Universal Declaration of Human Rights articles out loud and in various languages. Over 70 people in attendance. The subsequent presentation by the CT Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities was also informative. In December, 2018 the library plans to have events celebrating Human Rights Day in all three libraries.
 - WH Public Schools: again this year all grades, K-12, did something special to learn about human rights during their school day. Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Paul Vicinus emailed a report detailing the events to the Commission.

- MLK Day celebration: The Monday, Jan 15, Town Hall celebration of MLK will occur as usual; there are also plans afoot to have break-out sessions for an hour afterwards (11-12). Judy K. asked for volunteers to help with the event and/or sit at a Human Rights Commission table and answer any questions. 4-5 people agreed to come help.
- City of Compassion proposal is still before the Human Services subcommittee of the Town Council.
- Pramod reported on:
 - Continued efforts at the Faxon branch to help immigrants with their citizenship applications. The library is looking for immigration lawyers to volunteer their time to help review the applications, and also plans to start some tutoring classes in preparation for the citizenship test and interview. Once these and other programs are in place the library will produce and distribute a brochure (in addition to their website).
 - “All things Google” monthly series to teach people about email, etc.
 - “How to” festival will be held at the library on March 24.
- Barry suggested that each Commissioner come up with a project or theme that the Commission could implement during 2018. Pramod suggested a framework of a theme for each month. Commissioners are going to send suggestions to Judy K. by next week and she will compile a tentative calendar and circulate via email.
- Judy B. mentioned that Judge Washington had contacted her about partnering on an event covering Human Trafficking. She will report more on this at the March meeting.
- Judy K. mentioned that the “Rethinking Columbus” group will be meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 4 pm in the main library meeting room.
- There will be a Feb. 20 Human Rights Commission “special meeting” at 7 pm featuring the University of Hartford President Woodward and the WH Acting Chief of Police Coppinger to discuss the conflict between two roommates at the University of Hartford last fall, 2017. Commissioners are interested in possible human rights violations.
- Next meeting regular meeting: Tuesday, March 6, 7 pm, rm. 217
- Judy K. motioned and Krishna seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Wyman Kelly 1.2.18