

## **WEST HARTFORD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (WHHRC)**

Minutes of the April 6, 2022 Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:13pm by Co-Chair Esam Boraey.

### **Attendance:**

Esam Boraey, Co-Chair (EB): Here  
Dawn Ennis, Co-Chair (DE): Here (joined around 7:30pm)  
Aurora Melita, Secretary (AM): Here  
Ted Mancini (TM): Here  
Sarah Raskin (SR): Here  
Eric Schoenberg (ES): Here  
Pramod Pradhan, Liaison and Facilitator (PP): Here  
Tekisha Dwan Everette (TDE): Excused

### **Minutes:**

EB made a motion to accept the January, February and March 2022 meeting minutes, SR moved, seconded by ES, passed unanimously by voice vote.

EB recognized Kristen Sowell, who recently had to leave her appointment to the WHHRC, for her outstanding commitment to supporting the commissions' mission and for her uplifting impact to the community.

DE recognized and congratulated former WHHRC Co-Chair Adrienne Billings-Smith, for receiving a special honor from WTNH-TV of Remarkable Women of CT.

<https://www.wtnh.com/remarkablewomen/remarkable-women-west-hartford-mom-working-to-make-her-community-more-welcoming-for-everyone/>

Honor Roll Update:

SR shared there was a low number of nominations for awards. Commission agreed that SR would send an email to town, including Town Manager, to share those nominations were low and suggest we reopen the process. Would ask for help with promotion of reopening nominations if they were to agree.

“HRC Days to Celebrate”:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JMnVd7EdOnZKu\\_KGmnDRT2qyROC25vpuxqzejYZkhd4/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JMnVd7EdOnZKu_KGmnDRT2qyROC25vpuxqzejYZkhd4/edit)

SR shared list of members to dates. Members that were present signed up for dates where they would be responsible to draft a social post.

Facebook Live initiative:

EB and DE will meet to discuss what to do next and present at next meeting.

Discuss HRC recognition of West Hartford's Superintendent Tom Moore:

<https://we-ha.com/superintendent-tom-moore-leaving-west-hartford-for-chicago-area-position/>

SR suggested a social media WHHRC post to wish West Hartford Superintendent Tom Moore to wish him well on his retirement and future endeavors.

SR made a motion to do a social media post for Moore, moved by DE, seconded by ES, 1 abstention TM, passed by voice vote.

Discuss HRC statement of support for Ukraine:

After discussion decided to table idea since WHHRC has already made social media posts on how people can support those who have been impacted.

Discuss location for HRC's May Regular Meeting:

May meeting will be in person at same location, Elmwood Community Center, Room #24, 1106 New Britain Ave, West Hartford, CT 06110.

Open Discussion:

DE asked WHHRC if there was interest in recording meetings that would then be posted to WHCi for interested parties. Commission decided to not participate in recordings.

ES asked WHHRC where we were with sending letter to town hall to recommend that West Hartford adopt the IHRA definition. Such action was passed at March 2022 meeting. SR shared there was an edit to the letter than needed to be done and would send the letter out when finished.

SR asked WHHRC if we wanted to march in Memorial Day Parade, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. DE and EB shared they would be happy to march, ES said maybe, and that we would continue the discussion via email. SR went onto share that the commission can nominate veterans to honor that have passed away or are living. Share two suggestions and opened the floor up to discussion or other nominations. SR suggested Prut, who was enslaved in West Hartford and serve in the Revolutionary War in place of his owner, and Kristin Sowell, former WHHRC member who is an active member of the military. TM suggested a family member who was a guard during the Nuremberg Trials in WWII. WHHRC members agreed to three suggestions and SR said she would share the three names for consideration.

EB announced next meeting date of Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 7:00pm at same location. Elmwood Community Center, Room #24, 1106 New Britain Ave, West Hartford, CT 06110.

DE made motion to adjourn, moved by EB, seconded by TM, passed by voice vote.

**Announce Next Meeting Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Adjournment**

\_\_\_\_\_ made motion to adjourn, moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, passed by  
voice vote