

Civil Rights Commission Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Zoom April 28

Attendees

Present:

Commissioners: Thomas Parker, Anastasia Mann, Jean Durbin, Kim Dorman,, Fern Spruill, Surinder Sharma, Nick Di Domizio, Lew Maltby,

Also present: Council Liaison Leticia Fraga

Excused: Karen Hernandez-Granzen

Members of the Public: Mark Freda

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm on April 28, 2020.

April Agenda:

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of February 25, 2020 Minutes

Commissioner Sharma moved to approve the February minutes.

Commissioner Mann seconded.

All approved.

III. Public Comment

No Public Comment

IV. Chair's Report

Chairman Parker spoke about the ways in which different organizations and groups in town are working to meet the needs of our community during the crisis precipitated by Covid19 and the ensuing state-ordered shutdown. Mr. Parker noted that it is important for commissioners to keep up to date on the ongoing and changing Executive Orders from a civil rights perspective.

V. Liaison Report

Council Liaison Fraga:

Maltby asks how municipal employees are being kept safe.

Council Liaison Fraga notes that all existing equity challenges are being exacerbated, through Council she is working on two task forces: Food Insecurity and Health.

6:32 The official meeting was ended due to a technical difficulty.

A new virtual space was created by Commissioner Durbin. Commissioners noted that this could not be a formal meeting, but we could continue to hear reports from members.

Commissioner Mann calls for updates from Commissioners:

Commissioner Sharma: shared reports on the work of different entities he represents or works with: Princeton Senior Resource Center, Eastern Service Workers Alliance, and the students from the Entrepreneur program.

Commissioner Mann: discussed the work she has been doing with others for a newly formed group, Princeton Mutual Aid. She invited Commissioners to sign up and participate in this community self-help endeavor.

Commissioner Durbin: shared notes about Election Security and how this crisis has specifically affected our incarcerated population.

Commissioner Maltby

Re-raised his concern for Municipal Employees who are working at this time: Is this work truly essential? How are the decisions being made?

Commissioner Dorman shared work that the library has been doing in collaboration with others to gather and distribute information specific to the COVID 19 crisis at www.princetoncovid.org. She committed to working on the CRC Commission webpage.

Commissioner Spruill: Noted that the schools have been reaching out to her to help meet the needs of minority children in the community during this time.

Commissioner DiDomizio is an essential worker and shared that his lab is one that is looking for a vaccine.

The unofficial meeting concluded at 7:12pm

Respectfully submitted by Kim Dorman