

**Civil Rights Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**June 23,2020 via Zoom**

**Attendees**

**Present:**

**Commissioners:** Thomas Parker (Chair), Anastasia Mann (Vice Chair), Kim Dorman (Secretary), Commissioners: Jean Durbin, Karen Hernandez-Granzen, Lewis Maltby, Surinder Sharma, Fern Spruill  
Council Liaison Fraga,

**Excused:** Nick DiDomizio

**Members of the Public:** Matt Mieczko, Ross Wishnick, Sherrod Smith, Christine Symington, 609-502-8381, Iphone, Eliana Burke, Michael Floyd

The meeting was called to order 6:07 pm on June 23, 2020.

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Approval of May 26, 2020 Minutes**

Commissioner Sharma moved to approve the minutes  
Commissioner Hernandez-Granzen seconded

**III. Council Liaison Report**

1. Council adopted “Racism as a Public Health Emergency” resolution with action items to review and to research what other towns are doing in this interest.
2. Council moved forward ordinances around affordable housing for public hearing
  - a. Noted perhaps CRC and others can support residents to be eligible for affordable housing.
3. Human Services
  - a. Summer Youth Employment program will be a virtual entrepreneurship program
  - b. DACA workshop on June 25, 2020

4. Montgomery Township invited Chair Parker and Council Liaison Fraga to speak about establishing a Civil Rights Commission

#### **IV. Chair's Report**

This pandemic has highlighted the fractures of our society, disproportionately affecting poor, black and brown communities and the elderly. The murder of George Floyd, lifted up again, the systemic racism in this country that has caused and exacerbated these issues. To that end:

- The CRC will be holding a series of community conversations to highlight these issues
  - Commissioner Spruill shared how we should communicate with the community - Survey, Zoom Meeting, person to person
  - A possible survey of the community to share experiences of racism in town with the ability to send audio or video file or engage in follow-up conversations with community leaders that have established trust (Fern, Tommy)
  - An anonymous place to post/write experiences
  - An open forum where people may speak, which may include Chief Sutter
  - Zoom open office hours where people can share experiences
  - Programming around Brandon McCoy,
  - Police Review Board and Stakeholders
    - Difficult to find a balance between a review board that has power, and one that does not strangle the PD. AG creating minimum standards
    - Commissioner Durbin has begun researching potential speakers for Civilian Review Boards - attended a panel with the ACLU (Alex Shalom is the ACLU )
      - Council Liaison Fraga asks what the goal is.
        - There was a great deal of discussion about
- Resolution Commitment to End Structural Racism and Commit to Racial Equity
- Commissioner Mann: Suggest that we Join the Government Alliance on Race and Equity
  - Motion on Hold
- Chairman Parker: Asked us to Join the National League of Cities
  - Motion on Hold

Commissioner Durbin made a motion to table the motion  
Commissioner Hernandez Granzen seconded

## **V. Commissioner Liaison Report**

### **Commissioner Sharma**

Reparations:

- The Council will make recommendations to the council for appropriate remedies at the local and ideally state and nation levels.
  - Council Liaison Fraga suggest that we add documentation to the webpage

### **Commissioner Spruill**

- Working on getting the children back to school
  - Council Liaison Fraga noted that it would be great

### **Commissioner Mann:**

- Domestic Workers
  - We sent information to the municipality from Hand-in-Hand (a national employers org) about best practices for employers and domestic workers rights
- PACE RISE Internship
  - Focused on way Princeton is spending and taxing - how racial justice and equity are served by current tax and spending structure
  - What anti-racist taxation and spending
  - Residential segregation and how to produce it
  - Gather Stories of people in the community who have had experiences about racism in Princeton (a la Storycorps)
  - Evanston Illinois dedicated fund to reparations

## **VI. Public Comment**

Elana Burke would like the official stance on defunding the police budget.

Chairman Parker advised that the CRC does not have an official stance.

Ross Wishnick proposes that we could collaborate with Human Services when they do a Needs Assessment, we might be able to collaborate and add our survey questions.

Commissioner Dorman Motions to adjourn  
Commissioner Spruill seconded the motion.

Submitted respectfully by Kim Dorman