

Civil Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

Originally scheduled July 28, 2020

Re-scheduled July 30, 2020

Meeting occurred on Zoom

Attendees

Present:

Commissioners: Tommy Parker, Chair; Anastasia Mann, Vice Chair; Nick Di Domizio, Jean Durbin, Kim Dorman, Karen Hernandez-Granzen, Lew Maltby, Surinder Sharma, Fern Spruill

Excused: none

Members of the Public: Tineke Theo, Jaqueline Campbell, Sherrod Smith, iPhone, India Gupta, 215-xxx-xxxx

The meeting was called to order 6:05pm on July 30, 2020.

Minutes

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of June 23, 2020 Minutes

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

III. Public Comment

Tineke Theo noted that PMA is looking for bikes.

Council Liaison Fraga noted that Human Services may be a resource.

IV. Chair's Report

- Overview of First Community Conversation

Chair Parker:

- We hosted our first community Conversation for which we have received good back and is now available online. (Both our website and the FB page)

Council Liaison Fraga

- suggests
- Doing a press release.
- Host another community conversation on Public Safety with the new mayor

Commissioner Spruill :

- noted that not everyone was heard and suggested that we do a program on the same model as the Joint Effort Safe Streets program.

- Schedule of future Community Conversations with partners.

Commissioner Dorman to set up a working calendar for commissioners to review and plan discussions.

- Subcommittees
 - ByLaws and Procedures: Led by Commissioner Sharma.

V. RISE Updates (Mann)

The PACE Center started a new program to provide RISE internships to PU students.

Civil Rights Commission were matched with three students.

Brendan Firlie - looking at the budget through a racial equity lens - with a specific view of Parks and Rec. (Sources of revenue for rec department and how Princeton might consider making public facilities more accessible) (How many scholarships are offered -

Carrie Bly: Story Map of affordable housing in town tell the story of Princeton's ongoing experience of affordable housing. Different locations, circumstances, etc.

Jacqueline Campbell: Facilitating Community Conversations and outreach to the community.

Campbell and Smith worked with Commissioner Spruill before the meeting and shared with as many community partners as possible.

Campbell and Smith will be working on an open letter to the community about the community conversation to help address some of the additional issues that were not addressed in the meeting.

Sherrod Smith is a graduated student doing a grad degree at Penn and a policy degree at Princeton.

Smith noted:

A lot of the issues raised during the meeting and in the survey are around transparency.

Smith asks:

How do we, as a community, get information out?

How is a new police chief selected; How do people move up through the ranks?

Smith Concludes:

It is critical that we make sure people feel invested in the solution and identify ways to keep people civically engaged.

Commissioner Sharma:

Software that may be useful to student researchers — e.g. Hubspot, MAXQDA, Qualtrics —to identify recurring points — from survey.

Three Cheers to PU For their RISE program and an engaged citizenry.

VI Liaison Report

- COVID is still an issue. Some people are getting re-infected.
- Census: Complete Count Committee. For those who haven't filled out their census, do so, Census workers will be going door to door shortly to try and achieve a complete count. At the moment we are at 70.7 percent.
- CBDG has received some funding We are applying for more funding in response to the pandemic.
- Racism as a public health crisis - who is working on that.
- Racial Equity Toolkit
- CRC has been approved to have two alternates

VII. Commission Business

Commissioner Maltby

- Civilian Review Board
 - When there is use of force a CRB has two options
 - CRB Reads use of force and reviews how it get handled.
 - The Investigatory Board does not read what has been submitted by the police, they do their own investigations and are empowered to speak to all parties.
 - What can a review board

- Mostly make a report of the chief
- The better model is they submit recommendations to the mayor

Chair Parker noted that in some places the Police Commissioner is not associated with the police directly.

- BodyCams?
 - Council Liaison Fraga noted that Council just approved purchase of body cameras.
- Ban the Box
 - Chair Parker and Commissioner Maltby submitted suggestions to the town administrator, Marc Dashield.
 - CL Fraga to follow up
 - Requests were made to re-send to commissioners
- Police Use of Force
 - Would like to propose the CRC looks at the Use of Force in Princeton through a racial equity lens

Council Liaison Fraga suggests looking into what keeps people from affordable housing and looking into expungement.

- Chairman Parker asked Commissioner Maltby to follow up on how Princeton can support expungement efforts.

Commissioner Durbin noted that there are also 'social' requirements (e.g marriage) that we may also wish to review.

Commissioner Parker notes that we have a number of affordable housing organizations that are called to abide by different rules

Commissioner Spruill noted that she has been advised that there may be significant differences in the rental costs \$15/month versus \$1,100 per month and suggests that this should also be investigated.

Commissioner Di Domizio

- MEI
 - Submitted July 29 in advance of the due date.
 - Despite some changes - we are still at 100 (We lost points and gained)
 - In 2017 the council signed shared services with HiTops for LGBT counselling. - That is no longer happening

- He is working on developing an ad hoc committee and to develop recommendations for next year.

Council Liaison Fraga - asked Commissioner DiDomizio if he would like to make a report to council at this time.

Commissioner Dorman

- Environmental and Racial Justice
 - The Princeton Environmental Commission has asked the CRC to collaborate with them as we explore issues of environmental racial justice and environmental civil rights.
- Website
 - The Municipality is changing the website presentation soon, Commissioners DiDomizio, Durbin, and Spruill advised that they would review proposed changes.

Chairman Parker and Vice Chair Mann are looking into the organizations that we may ask to join how to best support inclusive communities.

Council Liaison Fraga notes that the Municipality now has a budget to support the work of the boards and commissions.

Commissioner Spruill moved to close the meeting.
Commissioner Sharma seconded the motion..