

**Civil Rights Commission Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2020 @ 6pm**

Attendees

Commissioners: Tommy Parker, Stacy Mann, Nick DiDomizio, Jean Durbin, Karen Hernandez-Granzen, Lew Maltby, Surinder Sharma, Fern Spruill

Council Liaison: Councilwoman Leticia Fraga

Members of the Public: Carrie Bly, Chris Myefski, Christine Symington, Linda Oppenheim, Sherrod Smith, Matt Miezcke, Earlene, Larry Spruill, Ali McTar, Anda French, Maria Juega, Jane Ilyasova, Naomi Steinhagen, Justin Hinson, Grace Lee, Patty Soll, Maelosa Barstow, Sonia Ralston, Maria Juega, (Sue Billett by phone)

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm
The August minutes were approved.

Affordable Housing Story Map, presentation by Carrie Bly

The Affordable Housing Map that began as a collaboration between CRC and the Pace Center's RISE project is now in beta form and ready to be viewed by the public. It takes visitors through a history of this municipality's struggles to offer accommodation options to people whose incomes mean they would have trouble competing in the private market. It covers the distinct developments -- and their timing and origins -- as well as some of the milestones in public housing in NJ such as the Mount Laurel decision. Using documents from the Historical Association of Princeton, the map offers a close up of particular episodes such as when Black GIs returned from WWII and could not afford housing due to discrimination in residence and employment.

Public discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sharma:

Q. How can we enfranchise people so that providing affordable housing is no longer necessary.

Larry Spruill:

Q. Was there ever a conversation about Princeton preference?

Commissioner Mann: Ms. Bly has completed her part of the task, but we look forward to continuing the project and invite the public to share their stories using the link provided.

The Chair's Report

Sustainable Princeton Collaboration

- Christine Symington of Sustainable Princeton
 - Project to advocate for the health and safety of outdoor workers
 - Increasing no mow or low mow gardens
 - Would like someone from CRC to be on the Steering Committee (meet once a month) to ensure that the lens is appropriately focused on the communities most affected.

Upcoming Events:

- September 27: Community Conversation with Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church
- Week of October 12- 20 Princeton Environmental Film Festival
 - **Conscience Point** A film about the Shinnecock Indian Nation who originally lived what is now known as the Hamptons, The film tracks this fractured history as Shinnecock activist Rebecca "Becky" Hill Genia and other tribal members fight to protect the land and the land and her tribe's cultural heritage from the ravages of development and displacement.
 - **Sacrifice Zone:** The Ironbound district of Newark, New Jersey is one of the most toxic neighborhoods in the country. Maria Lopez-Nunex, a Honduran American resident there, is waging a war for environmental Justice. The Sacrifice Zone follows Maria as she leads a group of environmental justice fighters determined to break the cycle of poor communities of color serving as dumping grounds for our consumer society.

The Liaison Report

Commissioner Mann

- Eviction Moratorium Outreach

Commissioner Dorman:

- LWV & Returning Citizens

Commissioner Spruill

- Survey update and distribution

Public Comment

Public comment was blended with the housing story map presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Durbin, Secretary