

PRINCETON CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 25th, 6:00 PM



Commissioner Attendees: Chair Tommy Parker, Vice Chair Sherrod Smith, Secretary Nick Di Domizio, Walter Bliss, Howard Levy, Anastasia Mann, Surinder Sharma, Fern Spruill

Absent Members: Lew Maltby

Liaison: Councilwoman Leticia Fraga

Members of the Public: Michael Floyd, JoAnne Parker

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:20 PM.
- II. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Council Liaison Fraga presided over the meeting and read the Land Acknowledgment.
 - b. Tommy Parker was nominated as Chair by Commissioner Mann. Seconded by Commissioner Sharma. Unanimously approved. The meeting was turned over to Chair Parker.
 - c. Sherrod Smith was nominated as Vice Chair by Commissioner DiDomizio. Seconded by Commissioner Mann. Unanimously approved.
 - d. Nick DiDomizio was nominated as Secretary by Commissioner Spruill. Seconded by Sherrod Smith. Unanimously approved.
 - e. Commissioner Bliss was introduced to the group.
- III. Reorganization
 - a. Secretary DiDomizio inquired whether the 4th Tuesday of every month still works with everyone's schedules. The only note was from Commissioner Levy, who said that he has conflicts with Basketball season in Jan-Mar, but otherwise, should be available. Secretary DiDomizio suggested that we keep the 4th Tuesday, and all commissioners please put all meetings for the year in their personal calendar, and let him know of conflicts with enough notice. All alternates for the Civil Rights Commission are vacant currently.
 - b. Future Meetings for 2022:
 - i. Tuesday, Feb 22
 - ii. Tuesday, Mar 22
 - iii. Tuesday, Apr 26
 - iv. Tuesday, May 24
 - v. Tuesday, June 28
 - vi. Tuesday, July 26
 - vii. Tuesday, Aug 23
 - viii. Tuesday, Sep 27
 - ix. Tuesday, Oct 25
 - x. Tuesday, Nov 22
 - xi. Tuesday, Dec 27

- c. Council Liaison Fraga suggested creating a directory with names, contact and term so that people will be able to contact one another and know when term limits are up. Council Liaison Fraga and Secretary DiDomizio will work offline on this.
- d. Goals and Projects: Council Liaison Fraga noted that several council members have been pushing to meet to discuss goals. Once that is set, they will invite BCC's to join and set goals base on what the council has set. Commissioner Mann recommended setting the CRC date as soon as possible via Doodle Poll. Some discussion was had around location (virtual or in person).

IV. Council Liaison Report

a. Public Health Department

- i. The Public Health Department has set up a new COVID testing site in collaboration with Ridgewood. There is no out-of-pocket cost, but those who are insured should bring their identification cards anyway. They do take walk-ins, but they encourage that you make an appointment. The website is testnj.online.
- ii. Vice Chair Smith inquired about mask availability. Council Liaison Fraga noted that the health department is distributing surgical masks, and they ordered N95 masks, but they have not arrived yet.

b. Communications/Newsletter

- i. Council Liaison Fraga noted that a communications committee was created last year. We can ask them to add announcements to the twice-weekly newsletter that gets sent out via email.

V. October Minutes were approved unanimously.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Civilian Review Board

- i. Discussion tabled because Commissioner Maltby was not present.

b. Equity and Reparations

- i. Vice Chair Smith noted that he wants to keep up this discussion. Commissioner Mann said that the resolution is in good shape and people should review. The committee is currently ad-hoc.
 1. Link to Resolution: [Link](#)
- ii. Commissioner Mann and Vice Chair Smith asked Council Liaison Fraga about the next steps. Council Liaison Fraga said that it needs to be put onto the calendar. A presentation is encouraged. Action items should be outlines specifically on implementation.
- iii. Vice Chair Smith also inquired about a strengthened version of the Resolution Declaring Racism A Public Health Crisis. Council Liaison Fraga noted that a direct review session is needed with Council. Commissioner Sharma recommended an internal discussion to familiarize new members of the CRC. Vice Chair Smith noted that everyone will be looped in on any discussions going forward.

VII. Chair Report

- a. Chair Parker reiterated that everyone should review the enabling ordinance that created the new version of the CRC. [Link](#)
 - b. Guidelines and Procedures are also recommended for review. [Link](#)
- VIII. Vice Chair Report
 - a. Vice Chair Smith noted that the items that he wanted to discuss were covered already during meeting.
- IX. Commissioner Comments
 - a. Confronting and Combating Antisemitism
 - i. Commissioner Levy acknowledged that the template resolution that was presented to Mayor and CRC was not really tailored for this community, but he doesn't want to let the momentum stop on this effort. Commissioner Levy spoke with Chair Parker and Commissioner Mann about it, as well as a contact at the Jewish Center in Princeton. They seemed happy to work together on a dialogue. Commissioner Sharma wanted the discussion to be more inclusive for all religions. Vice Chair Smith wanted to add the language to the updated Resolution Declaring Racism A Public Health Crisis.
- X. Public Comments
 - a. None

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM

The next meeting of the CRC will be on Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022 at 6pm.

Please provide agenda items for the next meeting to Chair Parker, Vice-Chair Smith and Secretary DiDomizio by Tuesday, February 15th, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Di Domizio, Secretary