

PRINCETON CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 23rd, 6:00 PM



Commissioner Attendees: Chair Tommy Parker, Vice Chair Sherrod Smith, Secretary Nick Di Domizio, Howard Levy, Lew Maltby, Anastasia Mann, Surinder Sharma

Absent Members: Karen Hernandez-Granzen, Fern Spruill, Sean H. Miller

Liaison: Councilwoman Leticia Fraga (Absent)

Members of the Public: Bret Jacknow, Earlene Baumunk Cancilla

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM by Chair Parker.
- II. Commissioner Di Domizio read the Land Acknowledgment.
- III. Commissioner Di Domizio noted that Commissioner-Alternate Miller has accepted a job in New York and will be moving away from Princeton. Commissioner-Alternate Miller will be submitting a letter of resignation to Chair Parker.
- IV. Commissioner Sharma provided the following comments for the February Minutes past the deadline. They are noted here:
 - a. Section V.a.i should be February 25th
 - b. Section V.e.vi is clarified to be Princeton University
- V. February Minutes were approved.
- VI. Council Liaison Report – Council Liaison was absent
- VII. Committee Reports
 - a. Civilian Review Board
 - i. Commissioner Maltby reported that he has been working with Mickey Bradley from the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement and came up with items to discuss with Chair Parker. Commissioner Maltby reached out to Chair Parker and Mayor Lempert for advice on how to implement this plan, and it was recommended to meet with community leaders. Chair Parker will reach out to Rev. Lukata Mjumbe and other community orgs. like congregations. Chair Parker will forward possible meeting dates to everyone and decide what works best.
 - b. Equity and Reparations
 - i. Commissioner Sharma noted that there was a meeting on 3/22 w/ Municipal Administrator Marc Dashield. They reviewed the Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) also referred to as the “Toolkit”. It was a good dialogue and there was a lot of positive feedback. Marc noted that the Toolkit is good for policy, but asked how we can make it procedure.
 - ii. Resolution passed by council, but no mandate is made for the council and other departments to use it.

- iii. Chair Parker on mandating: Councilwoman Fraga and Chair Parker will get up a meeting with Marc Dashield on implementation and rollout.
- iv. Commissioner Sharma will send a Powerpoint to the commission compiling local and statewide findings with references.
- v. Commissioner Mann had a question about multiple streams coming together at once and how the boards, commissions and departments get on the same page. She wanted to know if we are using impact statements and how it shifts the norms.
- vi. On Thursday, 3/25 there will be a meeting at to discuss, publicly announce meeting, get quorum.
- c. Commissioner Sharma requested a meeting w/ people within the Municipal government who are responsible for guidelines, policy & procedures for the Civil Rights Commission (CRC).
- d. Hilltop Park
 - i. Commissioner Levy requested that the plan to resurface the park at Princeton Community Village (PCV) (Hilltop Park) be added to the agenda with regards to the REIA/Toolkit. Commissioner Levy asked whether the REIA was used during the decision process. Chair Parker noted the purpose of the toolkit is to bring community members into the dialogue, and the “pros and cons” discussion is happening already in other channels.
 - ii. Commissioner Maltby asked whether the CRC urge the council to move forward with the toolkit and to involve the CRC. Chair Parker said that the commission can do this, and Councilwoman Fraga has already given a presentation to council on this. Commissioner Sharma also noted that Councilwoman Fraga is aware.
 - iii. Commissioner Levy wanted to clarify that this is not a bad project – he is just trying to address how it impacts Community members.
 - iv. Commissioner Mann said that no one has a vested interest in how the toolkit is applied. Vice Chair Smith said that Chair Parker and Councilwoman Fraga are going to get a definitive response on how to go forward with using the toolkit.
 - v. Commissioner Mann started a Google Doc for folks to provide questions that go into generating a relevant racial impact statement. Chair Parker encouraged everyone to fill it out.
 - 1. [Racial Impact Statement for Hill Top Park Turf - Google Docs](#)
 - vi. Commissioner Di Domizio noted that we should use the questions in the REIA/toolkit, and that we shouldn’t reinvent the wheel. Start with these questions & build from there. Commissioner Sharma added the REIA questions to the Google Doc.

VIII. Chair Report - Skipped

IX. Vice Chair Report

a. ADL Resolution

- i. Vice Chair Smith said that we need to have a committee discussion regarding implementing this resolution. We need to see where

there is overlap with existing resolutions, and see whether it is worth recommending a specific resolution with what remains.

- ii. Commissioner Di Domizio noted that a link to the resolution is in the January Meeting Minutes.
 - iii. Commissioner Mann said that the Commission should come up with a policy on how we recommend resolutions to Council on national matters. The Commission only has so much time to address national issues, and we need to figure out how to prioritize what to take on.
- X. Commissioner Comments
- a. NJ Marijuana Possession Legislation
 - i. Commissioner Maltby noted that the question of whether the Princeton Police Department has officially stopped making marijuana arrests is still pending.
 - b. CRC Website
 - i. Vice Chair Smith noted that the Contact Us link is broken. Secretary Di Domizio will reach out to Liaison Fraga and the Webmaster to fix it.
- XI. Public Comment
- a. Earlene Baumunk Cancilla wanted to highlight that Princeton University plans to locate a Geothermal Plant next to a children's playground on Fitzrandolph Road.
 - b. Chair Parker highlighted that there is a process and procedure to fielding concerns from the public. A project like this would have to go into Municipal Consideration. Chair Parker requested a draft to Earlene's commentary. No racial impact statement has likely been drafted for this project.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM

The next meeting of the CRC will be Tuesday, April 27th, 2021 at 6pm.

Please provide agenda items for the next meeting to Chair Parker, Vice-Chair Smith and Secretary Di Domizio by Tuesday, April 20th, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Di Domizio, Secretary