

PRINCETON CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 22nd, 6:00 PM



Commissioner Attendees: Chair Tommy Parker, Vice Chair Sherrod Smith, Secretary Nick Di Domizio, Karen Hernandez-Granzen, Howard Levy, Lew Maltby, Anastasia Mann, Fern Spruill

Absent Members: Surinder Sharma

Liaison: Councilwoman Leticia Fraga

Members of the Public: Mayor Mark Freda, Christine Symington, Joanne Parker, Earlene Baumunk, Tammy Sands, Josh Perlsweig, Kareena Bhakta, Leighton Newlin

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM.
- II. Commissioner Di Domizio read the Land Acknowledgment.
- III. May Minutes were approved with the following amendments
 - a. Section IV.c.iii – Change from “Members of Council” to “Members of the Task Force”
 - b. Section IV.c.v – Clarification that Residents in the Witherspoon-Jackson neighborhood in the former Township get free permits and in the former borough have to pay. In addition, the neighborhood around Princeton High School gets free permits.
- IV. Sustainable Princeton and Princeton Environmental Commission (PEC) Updates on Sustainable Landscaping Initiative
 - a. Christine Symington, Program Director of Sustainable Princeton reviewed the status of the Changing the Landscape initiative
 - i. Project emphasizes making sure landscapes are a part of solving the problem
 - ii. Focus over the past few months-getting landscape's perspective
 - iii. Practices are driven by consumer demand
 - iv. Sustainable Princeton is using Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) toolkit on the project
 - v. Looking at Power Analysis impact vs. influence
 - vi. Sustainable Landscaping workshop in Jul-Aug 2021 timeframe
 - vii. Residential outreach ongoing
 - viii. Commissioner Hernandez-Granzen appreciated that many of the sessions were done in Spanish.
 - b. Tammy Sands, Chair of PEC reviewed the outcome of the meeting with landscapers
 - i. Recognition given to Karen Zemble in helping finalize the presentation
 - ii. Equity + Justice is a red thread through everything
 - iii. Landscapers did raise concerns about health & safety of employees using gas powered equipment
 - iv. Efforts must be made to educate property owners to change their expectations of landscaping
 - v. Current ordinances should be enforced for town and private property owners
 - vi. Draft Amendments have been made to existing ordinances based on landscaper's feedback
 - vii. Public meeting on July 14th
 - viii. Two companies have already moved away from gas powered equipment
 - ix. Sustainable Princeton and PEC has heard from workers and business owners.
 - x. There were opportunities for workers to talk to committee w/o bosses there.
 - c. Commissioner Levy wanted to know how this all started. Christine said that this funding opportunity was something that they applied for. It started last summer-peak of people complaining about noise. PEC got involved at this point.

- d. Leighton Newlin asked if there was there any consideration given to the additional cost of owners might happen or whether it would cost jobs. Christine said this topic came up. Something they heard is that shouldn't have an impact on them in the long term. Obviously, changing wholesale would have an impact. Sustainable Princeton is meeting with the mayor and a council rep to look for funding opportunities.

- e. Link to Presentation:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LGPne1wxO0pvtdQLcA_MsK7vE8GnN0OP/view?usp=sharing

V. Council Liaison Report

a. Community Center Task Force

- i. Council Adopted Resolution creating Community Center Task Force. Application for 4 at-large members on website and due by July 15th
- ii. CRC to designate a liaison.

b. Cannabis Task Force

- i. Vice Chair Smith is liaison
- ii. 6/23 @ 6pm-town hall type meeting soliciting input from the community. Trying to get an idea of what is allowed and what it may look like.
- iii. Kareena Bhakta is a Princeton University fellow for the summer. She is working on an REIA for the cannabis commission.

c. Civilian Review Board

- i. Council Liaison Fraga invited the commission to come to the Public Safety Committee meeting on July 29th at 1 PM. The sub-committee should plan to present.

d. Welcoming Week

- i. Welcoming Week is going to be Sept 10th -19th and In-person
- ii. CRC is being extended an invitation to participate
- iii. Theme: Belonging Begins with Us!

VI. Committee Reports

a. Civilian Review Board

- i. Getting first hand input from people have personal experience with police encounters
- ii. Setting a date for a meeting with Chief Morgan
- iii. Talking to more people every month
- iv. Legislation on CRB's is moving through at the state level. Hopefully Princeton Municipality would support that legislation.

b. Equity and Reparations

- i. The CRC ad hoc Committee on Reparations met with Nicholas Cummings, the Corporation Council of the City of Evanston, IL.
- ii. Evanston leaders relied on a report to show harms that Black residents experienced as a result of official policies and city actions.
 - 1. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pR88YRJJtC8LsRPIp4FzwiSk0Wcqzusa/view?usp=sharing>
- iii. Meeting on Thursday to outline the parameters of the ad-hoc committee and its mission purpose, etc.
- iv. No local policy will be proposed yet.

VII. Chair Report

a. Juneteenth Resolution

- i. Was passed on June 14th unanimously by the Council.
- ii. The resolution was read during Juneteenth Celebration last weekend Thanks to the Mayor and Council for bringing it forward.

VIII. Commissioner/Public Comments

- a. Princeton Unified Middle School renaming
 - i. Commissioner Hernandez-Granzen heard via emails/Facebook that the process of voting for new name for middle school somehow got changed mid-way through the process. Asking the commission to be a part of investigating, the process. Making sure categories can't be changed afterwards.
 - ii. General sentiment felt across other Commissioners. Encouraged reaching out as a group to the School Board.
- b. Moose Incident
 - i. Vice Chair Smith noted that Princeton University is investigating a moose that was found on a contractor site on the University campus. Princeton University is planning to partner with the NAACP to have a forum. Vice Chair Smith is trying to reach out to see if the CRC can co-host that gathering

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Di Domizio, Secretary