

CITY OF REVERE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

June 3, 2021; ZOOM MEETING

Time: 5:00 pm EDT

Meeting Minutes

1) Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra called meeting to order.

2) Roll Call of Commissioners – All members are present except Reverend Tim Bogertman.

3) Arrive & Settle - Brief Silence

Chief Callahan reads the Mission Statement.

4) Approval of Minutes from the May 6th Meeting

Chief Bright MOTIONS to approve and Chief Callahan seconds; all in favor.

5) Pending Topic Updates:

a. Executive Director Status

- Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra reports there was only one application and no interview for the Executive Director (ED) position which was posted in March. That job included hours and salary as TBD because there was no budget then.
- Since that time, Mayor Arrigo has decided to pursue a Director of Equity and Inclusion (DEI). This person would have a broader role as well as be responsible for many of the duties which were created for the HRC ED job description.
- This new job and description will be included in the next fiscal budget starting July 1, 2021. Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra will update HRC members as needed.

b. Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Training for Commissioners

- Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra stated that the training must be 2 consecutive days.
- The best dates for HRC members to participate in the training are 9/30, 10/1 and 10/2.
- We will proceed with majority preference of 9/30-10/1 or 10/1-10/2. Emails to follow.

6) Topics for Discussion:

a. In-person meetings start June 15

i. Need to change start time?

- Kathi Reinstein mentions there are discussions in State legislation to continue with hybrid meetings. Many people advocate for it due to circumstances like commuting and weather. HRC members agree.

- Current status per Reuben Kantor: ***remote participation is allowed as long as there is a quorum of the public body in-person as of June 15th.*** This may change depending on if/when the Governor signs an extension to the remote participation executive order.
- Most members prefer to keep the start time at 5:00 so there is no need to change. Those who have a commuting issue will do the best they can.

ii. Review July 1 meeting date due to holiday weekend

- HRC members are available to attend the July 1st meeting.
- City staff Reuben Kantor is unavailable. He will find a substitute to support the HRC meeting.

AGENDA ORDER CHANGE: For efficiency and sensibility, Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra requests a motion to change the order of business with remaining topics for discussion.

Kathi Reinstein MOTIONS and Chief Bright seconds; All in favor.

b. Mission Statement review and elaboration

- Suggested addition to the Mission Statement (see at bottom in red font).
- Many agree with the addition however discussed whether this is the best time to make the revision.
- The HRC Ordinance will need to change with the new DEI position so it may be best to wait until the Ordinance is updated, which is approved by the City Council.

Chief Bright MOTIONS to table any changes or elaborations on the Mission Statement and Lynn Alexis seconds; all are in favor.

c. HRC Resources webpage

- Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra shared some suggested anti-racism resources that she and Vice Chair Chaimaa Hossaini compiled as possible samples to create a HRC webpage with resources for the public to access.
- Jalon Fowler suggested an alternative approach: instead of listing various resources, we list trusted organizations who oversee and update their resources.
- Dr. Garcia mentioned concerns about the webpage layout and Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra stated that the HRC is responsible for the content. Reuben Kantor and the IT department will assist with the web page creation/layout.
- Jalon Fowler and Vice Chair Chaimaa Hossaini offer to team up and work on this project. Dr. Garcia offered to recommend some trusted organizations. Rachid Moukhabir offered to provide tech input if needed. Updates to follow.

d. Cultural Holidays & Celebrations Subcommittee

i. Approval of Minutes from May 20 Meeting

Kathi Reinstein MOTIONS to approve the minutes and Kourou Pich seconds; all are in favor.

ii. Report from Kathi Ann Reinstein, Chairperson

- MOTION APPROVED at 5.20.21 subcommittee meeting: Since it is not necessary for the subcommittee to meet every month and subcommittee Chair may not be available, the HRC Chair and/or DEI are authorized to approve events submitted to the calendar.
- A submitted event from the community (Unveiling Day) was not approved to be added to the calendar unless a more convincing proposal is made.
- Kathi to follow up with subcommittee members about future meetings.

e. Juneteenth

- Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra states that since it is on June 19 and planning time is limited, the HRC can make recommendations to the Mayor's office for them to determine if feasible.
- Chairperson suggests a movie night – Dr Garcia mentions adding a guest speaker and Vice Chair Chaimaa Hossaini mentions having youth in the community speak.
- Kathi Reinstein offers Miss Juneteenth as a possible family friendly movie.
- Jalon Fowler suggests adding links to the HRC webpage in honor of Juneteenth mentioning BLM and black-owned business.
- Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra will forward possible movie and guest speaker idea to the Mayor.
- HRC members can send any ideas of links to honor Juneteenth to Reuben Kantor for him to add to the HRC webpage.
- By next year will be more established and we should have a DEI so there will be better planning and timing for this important holiday.

7) Other Business

Moroccan Cultural Day (Street Moroccan Festival)

- Rachid Moukhabir thanks the Mayor's office, License Commission, School Committee and Chief Bright for their support to approve this event to be held on August 14.

8) Executive Session

- a) The Human Rights Commission votes to meet in Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) for the following purpose: Purpose (1) to discuss the reputation, character, and complaints against Kourou Pich, a member of the Human Rights Commission. The cited purpose of this Executive Session was designed to protect the rights and reputation of individuals.
 - i) All vote in favor to meet in Executive Session.

- ii) Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra informs the public that the HRC will not reconvene at the conclusion of the Executive Session and requests the public feed to RevereTV, YouTube and Facebook be stopped.

9) Adjournment – public meeting adjourned.

HRC Mission Statement (proposed update)

The Mission of the Revere Human Rights Commission is to promote human and civil rights **through a focus on systemic change in the city** and empower all people of Revere by ensuring that everyone, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, have equitable opportunities, equal access, and are treated with dignity, respect, fairness, and justice.