

Revere Human Rights Commission
Subcommittee on Cultural Holidays & Celebrations
March 30, 2021 - Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting Called to Order by Kathi Reinstein

2. Roll Call of Subcommittee Members:

- Present: Chaimaa Hossaini (HRC Vice Chair), Dr. Lourenco Garcia, Kourou Pich, Kathi Reinstein (Subcommittee Chair)
- City staff, Reuben Kantor, present to host and support the subcommittee.

3. Scheduling of Subcommittee meetings going forward

- Kathi Reinstein discussed that this will be a subcommittee that would/should likely meet monthly and suggested to the present subcommittee members that we meet the third Thursday of each month at 5pm. (5pm is the earliest that a public meeting can occur.) The third Thursday was suggested because the HRC as a whole meets the first Thursday (or the second if the first Thursday is a holiday.)
- The Subcommittee members in attendance agreed. Reinstein called for a motion. The Motion was made by Chaimaa Hossaini and seconded by Lourenco Garcia. All members in favor.

4. Discussion Relative to developing a Cultural/Historical Celebrations Calendar

- Reinstein recognized Revere City Councilor Steven Morabito for the purposes of making public comment.
- Councilor Morabito: Thanks the Mayor and the members of the HRC for their time and efforts. He brought the Subcommittee's attention to the Pride Flag Raising the first week in June and asked that this be included on the calendar.
- Reuben Kantor then shared his screen and showed how anyone can go to the City of Revere's website or HRC page and propose a celebration or awareness day by using the "Add Event" function on the website Calendar. Once we know the dates of the Pride Flag Raising, they can be added to the Calendar.
- Kourou raised the point of not calling it a "celebrations" calendar as we are also adding "Awareness Months" to this. Reuben suggested the Calendar filter be called the "Cultural and Awareness Events." All subcommittee members agreed.
- There was a robust discussion on next steps after a calendar is formed. Kourou stressed that Awareness is a paramount goal and should be the next steps. She said: "The goal is to look at equity and justice." All Agreed.
- Processes for reviewing and approving calendar entries: A motion was made by Kourou Pich and seconded by Chaimaa Hossaini to recommend to the HRC full body that the Calendar be named the Cultural and Awareness Event Calendar and that the process for reviewing and approving public submissions be determined by the subcommittee and then reported to the HRC Committee as a whole. All approved.
- April 2021 & May 2021 Calendar suggestions: Kathi Reinstein suggested that we use the sample Diversity Awareness Calendar that Dr. Garcia shared with the Subcommittee (<https://www.tmcc.edu/diversity/awareness-calendar>) and recommended that these

entries be brought before the committee as a whole for inclusion on the calendar. Kourou Pich, asked that Cambodian New Year (April 14-16) and Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April) be added as well. Chaimaa Hossaini requested that Eid (May 12-13) be added and that we correct Ramadan to be April 12 - May 12. Kathi Reinstein requested the addition of Good Friday (April 2), Easter (April 4), Patriots Day (April 19), International Firefighters Day (May 4), and Mother's Day (May 9).

- Kathi Reinstein also suggested she could submit an Excel spreadsheet that includes those dates mentioned in the sample calendar Dr. Garcia provided, plus what was discussed tonight. Reuben Kantor stressed that it would be easier for Subcommittee Members, HRC Members and Members of the Public to enter suggestions/proposals directly on the City website by using the "Add Event" function on the website Calendar. Kathi said she would enter the dates/events discussed and then forward the list (spreadsheet) to the subcommittee which will note what has already been submitted to the calendar.

5. Other Business

- Chaimaa raised the concern that people in the community felt that banners were a "waste of time" and were upset that a Black Lives Matter Banner was only up for a short time; real change is needed, and a banner does not remedy that. She mentioned a Vigil that was held in the Shirley Ave Area of Revere to stand in solidarity with the AAPI community. A thoughtful and robust conversation ensued. Dr. Garcia suggested that both can be done - both the symbolism of a banner and community recognition. Kourou Pich, in agreement, commented that visibility, awareness & conversations matter and need to happen. She said, "Change is a process, not an event." Kathi Reinstein agreed and commented that one of the reasons the HRC was reinstated was to call attention to the diversity of our community and that there is a lot of work to do, and it needs to happen one step at a time because real change can be frustratingly slow, but it is about including everyone.

6. Adjournment

- Kathi Reinstein thanked everyone for the thoughtful and respectful dialogue, for their input and attendance, and thanked Reuben Kantor for all of his assistance. She then entertained a motion to adjourn.
- Chaimaa Hossaini made a Motion to adjourn. Kourou Pich seconded that motion. All in favor.
- The Revere Human Rights Commission Subcommittee on Cultural Holidays and Celebrations plans to meet next on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 5pm.