

**CITY OF REVERE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**May 6, 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 Lynn Alexis.
- 3) **Arrive & Settle - Brief Silence**
- 4) **Approval of Minutes from the April 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

Kathi Reinstein MOTIONS to approve and Jalon Fowler seconds; all are in favor.

**5) Pending Topic Updates:**

**a. Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Training for Commissioners**

Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra reported that City staff Reuben Kantor helped secure funds for the training however the funding will be divided in current 2020-2021 fiscal budget and 2021-2022 budget. It is likely that the training will take place in the Fall.

In upcoming weeks, more logistics to follow outside these monthly meetings.

**6) Topics for Discussion:**

**a. 311 Request – Revere History Museum - History of Revere (Narrative)**

**i. Guests, Bob Upton and Toby Pearlstein, from Revere Society for Cultural and Historical Preservation (RSCHP)**

- Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra read the 311 complaint from Jan 7, 2021 and gave a review of recent happenings and Motions, including that the complainant could not be reached to join this meeting. She also acknowledges and thanks Bob Upton and Toby Pearlstein with hosting museum tours for the HRC members and accommodating the situation overall.

-Mr. Upton gave a brief history of Revere and the RSCHP. He also acknowledged other RSCHP Board members for their time and dedication.

-Dr. Pearlstein shares a brief history of the museum stating that there are no paid staff and there has been only a small group of volunteers to assist with the many duties to run the museum. She also acknowledges that there are gaps in the inclusivity of the items. They rely on volunteers to donate artifacts. The RSCHP Board members recognize and have already been aware of the lack of representation and cultural diversity reflective of Revere in recent decades, about 50 years.

### Plans and recommendations:

1. A **Storytelling Experience Project** already being developed to bring in more communities of Color. RSCHP encourage POC to reach out to those communities and volunteer to help.
  2. A **Multicultural Exhibit**. After inquiry from Vice Chair, Chaimaa M. Hossaini, Dr Pearlstein clarified that although this would be a special separate exhibit, the goal is to have each exhibit area include multicultural timelines, i.e., religion exhibit, industry exhibit etc. The RSCHP needs artifacts as well as guidance in the history cataloguing and display of items.
  3. **Commissioner Input:**
    - a. Dr Garcia was impressed with the museum in terms of reflecting the contents of its time and the enthusiasm of the small group of volunteers. He does not agree with the 311 complaint yet does agree with improving and updating, especially how the storytelling can be a powerful vehicle to engage community. He had invited Bob and Toby to the Superintendent Cabinet meeting where they had further discussion.
    - b. Kourou Pich thanked the complainant for bringing attention to potential areas of need and improvement. Agrees with the multicultural timeline throughout the exhibits. Also encourages POC to join the Board and as volunteers at the museum.
    - c. Rachid Moukhabir personally knows the challenges of working at a non-profit and feels they are doing an outstanding job considering the lack of resources. He did acknowledge the museum lacked a multicultural aspect. To be more involved, he has requested his Board to fund a Moroccan exhibit at the museum which was approved. And his organization will extend \$1000 in grant money to each community to do the same and help make the museum more inclusive and diverse.
- b. **Possibility of future in-person meetings** – There are no current plans. Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra took a poll of HRC members to see if anyone was opposed to in-person meetings in the future if all are vaccinated. None opposed. Details and logistics to follow when ready.
- c. **Cultural Holidays & Celebrations Subcommittee**
- i. **Approval of Minutes from March 30 & April 22 Meetings**

Chief Bright MOTIONS to approve, Kathi Reinstein seconds; All are in favor.
  - ii. **Report from Kathi Ann Reinstein, Chairperson**

Subcommittee has met monthly. Cultural and Awareness Events have been submitted and uploaded to the City Calendar. She did mention that some inaccuracies were noted from the World Diversity Calendar model used and are being checked/corrected. Once complete the HRC will receive updated information. Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra shared her screen to display the uploaded events as well as show how Commissioners or anyone can go to the Calendar and add events.

## **7) Other Business**

A resident had requested Mayor Arrigo issue a proclamation to honor Taiwanese Americans as part of Taiwanese American Heritage Week (May 9-16). This request was approved, and the Mayor's Office is implementing. Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra added Taiwanese American Heritage Week to the Cultural and Awareness Events in the Calendar.

## **8) Public Forum**

Gina Castiello, Wayne Rose, and Niko Kaustopolous registered as guests.

Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra stated ground rules for this portion of the meeting based on the issues presented during guest registration (see end of document for ground rules).

- Wayne Rose wanted to review the HRC Mission Statement and connect this to a HRC member on social media however this was not permitted as noted in ground rules.
- Gina Castiello was glad to learn more about the Revere history museum and wanted to make the point that All Lives Matter.
- Niko Kaustopolous expressed not understanding why we could not discuss social media posts at this meeting. Chair Janine Grillo Marra repeated and clarified point #6 of ground rules.

### **Commissioner Input:**

Vice Chair, Chaimaa M. Hossaini states the importance of re-education and that although we may say All Lives Matter and everyone has the same opportunities, it is not the case and POC do not have the same advantages.

Dr Garcia states that these are serious issues and agrees with need for re-education. The HRC is a new group, creating processes and still learning how best to navigate.

Rachid Moukhabir agrees with previous comments and comments that the HRC spent 3 months creating the Mission Statement which included community input. He also reinforces that tonight's monthly meeting is not the appropriate forum for further, interactive discussion.

Kathi Reinstein thanks everyone for the thoughtful dialogue. She agrees with re-education and states the HRC is committed to these efforts. She mentions two books: Caste by Isabel Wilkerson and So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo.

Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra mentions that White folks are triggered and defensive about terms like White Supremacy and Racist. These terms do not simply refer to extreme behaviors nor mean that White people are bad or indecent.

## **9) Adjournment**

-Chief Bright MOTIONS to adjourn and Rachid Moukhabir seconds; All in favor.

### **Ground Rules 5.6.21 HRC Monthly Meeting**

1. This is the HRC monthly meeting, not a mediation meeting. The public forum section of the monthly meeting is to share human rights concerns.
2. Registered guests will have a maximum of 3 minutes to speak. The HRC members will have a brief opportunity to comment if they choose.
3. Guests are expected to speak in an open and respectful way. Aggressive speech or slander will not be tolerated. Guests will be muted if needed and after being reminded more than twice, the guest may be removed from the meeting.
4. The HRC does not have authority over City employees or officials.
5. This is not a forum to attack a HRC member. If a guest has an issue with one of our HRC members, they are directed to address this with the appointing authority, Mayor Arrigo.
6. Comments relative to social media: Unless social media becomes a forum for specific racial violence or is used in a means to further marginalize groups of people, the HRC cannot be a forum for individual social media grievances between people, no matter the context.