

Farmington Human Relations Commission
Minutes
March 28, 2018

Commission Members Present: Ruth Grobe, Zalman Nakhimovsky, Christine Mergenthaler, Lisa Pawlik, and Lisa Berzins.

Town of Farmington: Matt Walsh (Public Works), Jason Passafiume (Police), Nancy Parent (Community & Recreational Services), Beth Kintner (Town Council Liaison)

Ruth Grobe called the meeting to order at 6:41 pm.

Minutes: *Upon motion duly made by Zalman Nakhimovsky and seconded by Christine Mergenthaler the minutes of September 27, 2017 were accepted with one spelling change.*

Update from Police Department

Jason Passafiume had no office report. He did remind the commissioners that now with the nice weather coming the patrol would keep an eye on the automatic doors at McDonalds.

Update from Public Works Department

Matt Walsh updated the commission on Route 4 project – will be complete in June. The New Britain Avenue (Route 177) will go out to bid in July. The bike trail will be complete in a few weeks.

Update from Department of Community & Recreational Services

Nancy Parent informed the Commission of Community & Recreation activities including the summer concert series, movies, and campership grants. Parent updated the council that she has looked at 11 projects as the liaison from HRC.

Update from Town Council

Beth Kintner introduced herself and let the commissioners know who the new council members were. She gave a little information about her background in social work. She went over the dates for the upcoming budget. Informed commission on the 3 bonded items: school roofs, security at schools and a firetruck. Gave an update on the upcoming council sessions on strategic planning in May.

Motion was made by Lisa Berzins and seconded by Chris Mergenthaler to move the discussion on sponsoring a community conversation to this point in the meeting so that everyone could be involved. (Lisa Pawlik needed to leave early)

Community Conversation

Ruth Grobe introduced the idea of hosting a community conversation. The commission discussed the HRC and the role. Parent will print out the ordinance on the HRC for next meeting. The commission discussed a variety of topics including: political/cultural atmosphere, promoting diversity, or other unity driven subjects. Beth Kintner informed the commission of Foreword CT, an organization that hosts topics at the Farmington Library, over the past year including: immigration and gun violence. Commission decided that they would like to further explore the topic. Parent will also provide information on the schools diversity groups for next meeting along with the information on the mission of the HRC.

Accessibility Issues

Nancy Parent shared a photo of the issues with the ramp in front of George's restaurant. Matt Walsh offered to look at it and give his professional opinion.

Christine Mergenthaler mentioned that she is going to get a stamp thanking the Community Chest for the bench on Route 177.

The commission discussed the fireman's carnival. Ruth Grobe discussed the need for one more table. The group decided that they would hold off at this time.

Citizens Coalition for Equal Access is continuing to work with UCONN on accessibility issues.

Upon motion duly made by Chris Mergenthaler and seconded by Lisa Berzins the meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Parent, Secretary