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By Jim Alexander - Asst. Town Clerk at 9:20 am, Aug 24, 2023

## Human Relations Committee Meeting Minutes - March 6th 2023 (Draft)

*Purpose: To promote human rights, personal dignity, and positive relations between all residents and visitors to the Town of Maynard.*

### **Members Present:**

Kimberley Connors

Christopher DiSilva (Select Board Liaison)

Michael Noble (Police Chief)

Eliot Prisby (Chair Pro-Tempore)

### **Guests:**

Diya Arun

Maggie Day

### **Minutes:**

#### I. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgment

- Meeting called to order by Mr. Prisby at 7:14pm.

#### II. Public Comment & Community Concerns (3 minutes per speaker)

- Ms. Day: Can the Committee go beyond land acknowledgement? Plaque at Ice House Landing was discussed in the past. Mr. Prisby will look into previous minutes and contact Ms. FitzGerald if necessary to see where that conversation left off.
- Ms. Day: Committee website redesign might have live links to pertinent info or organizations.
- Ms. Day: Suggests the HRC make a recommendation to the Select Board to support five bills in legislation supporting indigenous rights. She will forward information to Mr. Prisby, who will share it with the other committee members for discussion at the next meeting.
- Ms. Arun: Can the committee do a fundraiser for Turkish and Syrian earthquake victims? Mr. DiSilva will talk to Town Administrator Greg Johnson to ascertain the scope within which the Committee can run or support fundraisers.

#### III. New Business:

- Discuss poster and recruitment strategies - Reframing Our Charge
  - Mr. Prisby: Is it the HRC, Select Board, or town administrator's role to recruit new membership? The current charge is vague.
  - Mr. DiSilva: Consider changing the charge of HRC before we solicit new members. The original charge was part of a conduit to the MPD for discussions re. Immigration policy, but that has been resolved.
  - Chief Noble: We need to figure out our charge before we go to the Select Board.

- Ms. Connors: We need a charge and vision for our committee and the current name is problematic as many think it's like "Human Resources."
- Mr. DiSilva: The new name can come from the charge.
- Mr. Prisby: Select Board member Jeff Swanberg asked him to look at DEI committees and their charges. Might we workshop this new charge?
- Chief Noble: We can ask the public for ideas, but we should use our committee meeting to actually make the new charge.
- Mr. DiSilva: Another option is to put together the charge internally and solicit ideas from the public for further discussion. We are an advisory committee. At the time we were deflecting many topics as there was so much to deal with; now we may have time to take on more.
- Ms. Connors: Willing to figure out our new charge and then meet with Greg Johnson so we are not floundering.
- Mr. Prisby: How do we make sure people feel safe and welcome in this community? How can our discussions have lasting effect and real world impact?
- Chief Noble: We should not take too much on - as of now we are an advisory committee. Change what you can and don't let what you can't change stop you.

IV. Old Business:

- Calendar Update (Mr. Prisby)
  - Still in progress.
- Guest Speaker Update (Mr. Prisby)
  - Will address once the calendar is complete.

V. Set Next Meeting Date & Adjourn

- Next meeting set for Monday April 24th 2023, 7pm on Zoom.
- Mr. Prisby motioned to adjourn at 8:02pm. Ms. Connors seconded.