



City of Lambertville
Human Rights Council
7:00 PM, Tuesday, February 28, 2017
Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center
25 South Union Street, Lambertville, NJ

Minutes

WELCOME – John Woods, Chairperson, Bambi Kuhl, Vice Chairperson.

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by John Woods who informed the members of the public present that this meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, noticing the newspapers on Friday, February 24th, posting the agenda on the city's website at www.lambertvillenj.org and on the bulletin board at City Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Roll Call.

Present: Kari Osmond, Bambi Kuhl, Sarah Landon, Beth Caruso, Beth Asaro, Cynthia Ege, John Woods.

Absent: Steven Stegman. Bruce Cocuzza, Daniel Seiter,

Chairman Woods informed the members of the Council and public that the formal business is on hold until we have a quorum. He gave an overview of the responsibility of the Human Rights Council. He informed the members present that the HRC's mission is to protect the rights of citizens and increase inclusion. The goal is to partner with organizations and agencies that are doing things with immigrant rights. There are two upcoming meetings that the public should be aware of and they are as follows:

April 4, 2017: Progressive Lambertville has asked the LHRC Co-Sponsor meeting with Mayor DelVecchio and the Police Director . The Agenda and audience of this gathering is still in development.

March 7, 2017 at the Lambertville Academy, Los Puentes of Fisherman's Mark has developed a specialized program on immigration rights & will be meeting with immigrant families in town. They will have a number of attorney's present to process individual documents or assist with other issues they may have. This is being approached with sensitivity and is not open to the public.

The Attorney General regulations of the State of New Jersey currently do not support stopping immigrants unless a person has committed a serious felony crime. If requested by ICE to detain a person, The City will not do ICE's job. We do not have the resources. These are the two most important issues defining a Sanctuary City.

Chairman Woods acknowledged the public present and commented that becoming a Sanctuary City has positives and negatives. The positives are: the principle message is that we have your back and you are not alone and it allows you to join other cities and states who have become Sanctuary Cities. The negatives are that it spotlights Lambertville and brings attention to our immigrant population; unclear if immigrants perceive this as helpful or dangerous; and it could negatively impact the City's resources.

City of Lambertville

Human Rights Council

7:00 PM, Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center, 25 South Union Street, Lambertville, NJ

Minutes

Page 2

There is discussion in legislation about New Jersey becoming a Sanctuary State. We are proceeding with caution as our immigrant population is terrified. The following community based programs are offering support and programs: Fisherman's Mark, Methodist Church and St. John the Evangelist Church. We will start with eight or nine participants and grow the program to 35 or more.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Members of the public took turns commenting and expressing their concerns. Many did not identify themselves. The following is a brief overview of the comments and concerns expressed:

It is not clear, are we or are we not a Sanctuary City? Mr. Woods responded that we are not a Sanctuary City. Councilwoman Asaro commented that we are behaving as one. Bambi Kuhl added that there is an agreement that some towns/cities have been asked to sign to be deputized as ICE agents, however, the City has not been asked. Mr. Woods states that we will not and have not signed an agreement.

Someone from the public asked what the difference was between becoming a Sanctuary City and acting as one. Mr. Woods stated that the difference is declaring, standing up and saying that we are a Sanctuary City versus acting as one thru education, support of our immigrant residents, increasing inclusion of all of our residents as well as the above mentioned police process. Councilwoman Asaro commented that we would take action if or when, it's strategic for us and our immigrant residents

A member from the public asked if they could attend the March 7th meeting. Mr. Woods said this was not a public meeting. It is organized by Los Puentas of Fisherman's Mark and is for the immigrant population. He said the meeting on April 4th is open to the public. They will have advocates; speak of training available, and partnership opportunities.

On June 4, 2017 with a rain date of June 11th, the Human Rights Council will partner with Fisherman's Mark to host an event welcoming everyone. We are calling it "We Are One." if approved by the Recreation Committee on March 8th.

Mr. Woods asked the Human Rights Council to introduce themselves to the members of the public present.

Someone from the public stated that she has a friend in Princeton who is a Sanctuary City and thought it would be helpful for the City to work with them to see what they learned. Mr. Woods commented that he would like to speak with her contact. Kari Osmond commented that Princeton was one of the first in the State and it helps to have Mercer County supporting them.

Someone from the public stated that she resides on the tow path and used to see

City of Lambertville

Human Rights Council

7:00 PM, Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center, 25 South Union Street, Lambertville, NJ

Minutes

Page 3

Hispanic families walking together. She no longer sees them. She asked what she could do to help because she has a sense they are in hiding. She asked if ICE has been here. Mr. Woods commented that they have not been in Lambertville. He didn't believe that we are on their radar. He had received information from a reliable source who said they were in Pennington in the mustard zone. (REFERENCE/MUSTARD ZONE: a place where immigrants gather to wait for work). He commented that he used to see 10 to 12 gathering at Fine Food and Flowers but now only sees up to 3 at one time. Bambi Kuhl commented that the schools are impacted too.

Mr. Woods informed the members of the public present that Fisherman's Mark has a band of attorneys who are working pro bono. They also created a card which is translated in English and Spanish for the immigrants to give if stopped by the police. The mission is to educate and keep them safe.

Someone from the public asked if the cards and flyers were run by an attorney first. Mr. Woods said that they were and that Los Puentas had three attorneys in their membership.

Someone from the public asked if they could be kept informed on the outcome from the March 7th meeting. Mr. Woods said he would ask Fisherman's Mark for an update and to find effective ways for the public to help.

Franta asked if Fisherman's Mark can reach all Hispanics and if they would accept them all. Mr. Woods said the county has a 24 hour hotline and they are making personal connections but they are in the early stages.

Sarah Landon responded that once you reach one, ten others will contact you. She said that word of mouth is the best way to communicate.

Bambi Kuhl concurred and informed the members of the public that when a house burned down on York Street, once she helped one family, others came forward. We need to establish trust.

Someone from the public said they spoke to the Mayor earlier and he said we are essentially a Sanctuary City.

Pat Danielson commented that it would be good to have lawyers present at our event in the park in the event that ICE finds out. Mr. Woods will bring this to the attention of Los Puentas.

Someone from the public mentioned a group titled "United We Dream." She said it was a youth run of immigrants. They have trainings and only ask for a contribution. Mr. Woods asked if someone would "snope" that to ensure it was real.

Kari Osmond stated that Attorneys were present at the airport providing assistance to those immigrants turned away.

City of Lambertville

Human Rights Council

7:00 PM, Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center, 25 South Union Street, Lambertville, NJ

Minutes

Page 4

Mr. Woods commented that Los Puentas has two attorneys who work with the ACLU.

Someone from the public asked if the City could issue a warning to the public when they are made aware of ICE activity in the City. The request was for a waive of information in real time. Councilwoman Asaro asked the City Clerk if they could send this out through the list serve. The Clerk responded that the list serve is used for emergency's like flooding and that would be a question for the Mayor.

Fran Bardusco commented that she wasn't happy. She was here to help and finds that Fisherman's Mark is too limiting. We may have other ways to communicate. We have a whole lot of talent in this room. Mr. Woods responded that Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope, Los Puentas, Fisherman's Mark are all working together to gain the trust and will have volunteer opportunities down the road. Councilwoman Asaro commented that they are open to ideas. Ms. Bardusco commented that she works in the Library and they trust the employees of the Library. She wants to be part of the solution. Councilwoman Asaro asked if they could get some of the cards created by Fisherman's Mark. Ms. Bardusco commented that the Library already has them. She has contacted the school, Fisherman's Mark and they are not sharing information. City Hall was supportive.

Someone from the public asked when the Human Rights Council met next. Mr. Woods informed them that they next meet on March 28th at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Woods invited Sarah Landon and Fran Bardusco to present at the next Human Rights Council meeting on the programs available at the Library for immigrants.

Someone from the public said we should contact Phillips Barber Family Health Center to see how they are reaching out to the immigrant population. Mr. Woods said he would be happy to do that.

Beth Caruso suggested that the Human Rights Council reach out to restaurants to see how they can work with us. She will be happy to do that.

Councilwoman Asaro asked Mr. Woods if he was attending on March 7th. He said he was not.

Mr. Woods thanked the members of the public present for attending tonight's meeting. He said the Council had some work they needed to complete.

MEETING MINUTES.

Mr. Woods asked for a motion to approve the 01-24-17 Meeting Minutes. Bambi Kuhl made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted/amended. Councilwoman Asaro seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by the majority of the members present with Sarah Landon and Councilwoman Asaro abstaining. MOTION CARRIED.

City of Lambertville

Human Rights Council

7:00 PM, Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center, 25 South Union Street, Lambertville, NJ

Minutes

Page 5

NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28th at 7 pm. However, City Council has a budget hearing scheduled for the same time. The next meeting will be held at 7:30 pm immediately following the Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS.

Co-sponsoring invitations from Fisherman's Mark (Los Puentas) and Sara Gold & Filomena Hengst to co-sponsor workshops on the basics of protecting immigrant rights. (decision required).

April 4, 2017 Meeting with Sara Gold and Filomena Hengst: Mr. Woods informed the board that he wanted to investigate this more to insure it wasn't political.

June 4 or 11 Event with Fisherman's Mark and Los Puentas: Mr. Woods informed the board that the only thing Fisherman's Mark is asking for assistance with is obtaining use of the park. The theme will be "We Are One." Councilwoman Asaro suggested that it should read "We Are One Lambertville."

Mr. Woods asked for a motion to move forth with co-sponsoring the June 4th event with Fisherman's Mark. He made a motion to approve the request. Kari Osmond seconded the motion. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS.

Mr. Woods reviewed the list of Ideas for Goals for HRC 2017 with the members of the Council.

Continue our own education of immigration issues and rights. We need to market ourselves. Fisherman's Mark will share the table at Shad Festival. Mr. Woods has been working with Eric on the design. Beth Caruso has asked River Signs to print the banner for the HRC. Mr. Woods said he was not able to call Council President Stegman and discuss his concerns with the table at Shad Festival.

Sponsor and co-sponsor community activities re Immigrant Rights and Community Inclusion consistent with our Mission and Vision.

Engage with other regional Human Rights groups to identify areas where we can work together to improve inclusiveness with different vulnerable groups. Mr. Woods will contact the Princeton group to obtain information. Councilwoman Asaro will contact the group in New Hope.

Others: Kari Osmond felt it would be important to have an attorney sit on the Council. The makeup of the board was discussed. Since the board was created by ordinances and the ordinance specifically names the representation, it would need to be amended by

**City of Lambertville
Human Rights Council**

7:00 PM, Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center, 25 South Union Street, Lambertville, NJ

Minutes

Page 6

ordinance. Discussion ensued. The board is just becoming active and will revisit this at a later date.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. with a motion made by Councilwoman Asaro and seconded by Helen (Bambi) Kuhl. An affirmative roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Ege
City Clerk