



**City of Lambertville
Human Rights Council
7:30 PM, Tuesday, March 28, 2017
Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center
25 South Union Street, Lambertville, NJ**

MINUTES

WELCOME – John Woods, Chairperson

Mr. Woods read the statement of compliance into the record, noting that the annual notice was advertised in the February 6th issue of the Times, and the meeting schedule was provided to the Times, the Democrat; and the meeting agenda was posted on the City's website at www.lambertvillenj.org and on the bulletin board at City Hall. Mr. Woods welcomed the members of the public present and asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. Woods led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL.

Mr. Woods asked the City Clerk to call the roll:

Present: Bambi Kuhl, Councilwoman Beth Asaro, Cynthia Ege, John Woods, Council President Steven Stegman, Bruce Cocuzza and Dan Seiter.

Absent: Sarah Landon, Beth Caruso, and Kari Osmond.

MEETING MINUTES.

Mr. Woods asked for a motion to approve the 02-28 Meeting Minutes. Dan Seiter made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Councilwoman Asaro seconded the motion. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present.
MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS.

Hate Crimes – Bruce Cocuzza, Police Director

Mr. Cocuzza passed out a copy of a letter and flyer issued by Christopher Porrino, the New Jersey Attorney General about acts of hatred and bias.

Other Councils.

Mr. Woods informed the members of the public present that board members accepted the responsibility of reaching out to other local Human Rights Councils to obtain some information on how they operate. He asked each person to give an overview.

PRINCETON HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION – John Woods

Mr. Woods called the Princeton Human Rights Council. He spoke to Joanna Kay and Elisa Neira who is the Executive Director of Human Services Department. They have been a “Welcoming City” since 2015. They are not a Sanctuary City. There are some pluses and minuses but they feel they are better off as a “Welcoming City.” Mr. Woods did some research on Welcoming City's. He found, like with Sanctuary City's the definition varies.

City of Lambertville
Human Rights Council
7:30 PM, Tuesday, March 28, 2017
Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center
25 South Union Street, Lambertville, NJ

MINUTES

Page 2

Council President Stegman asked if “Welcoming City’s” were nationwide. Mr. Woods confirmed that they are and he said he would email everyone the information he found. Council President Stegman asked if he knew how many Welcoming City’s there were and if he could obtain guidelines. Mr. Woods commented that he was informed by the Princeton HRC that they asked their immigrants for input and they did not want to proceed with becoming a Sanctuary City. Council President Stegman asked Mr. Woods to ask them if they would do the same thing today.

LOCAL GROUPS - Mayor DelVecchio

Mayor DelVecchio addressed the members of the board and the public present and stated that there was a meeting organized by Los Puentes of Fisherman’s Mark with approximately 200 immigrants. The immigrants didn’t ask for anything and would prefer the City not take any action. The Mayor has asked the Library to consider adopting a photo membership card for their membership to use. This would have a dual purpose and would be helpful to the Library but also provide a photo identification card to their membership.

The Mayor invited everyone to the April 4th event that the Mayor and Police Director will be participating in organized by Indivisible and Filomena Hengst and Sarah Gold. It is being held at the Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center from 6 -7 pm. The City Clerk will circulate information to the HRC members.

NEW HOPE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION – Councilwoman Asaro

Councilwoman Asaro spoke with Dan Brooks and Vivian Francesco from the New Hope HRC. The purpose is to enforce the Borough’s law that prohibits discrimination in employment, housing and places of public accommodation and promotes equal opportunity. They split the committee into two. They have an Advisory Board that deals with all kinds of discrimination and the Clerk and Police Chief handle all LGBTQ issues. They would like to meet with the City sometime in the future.

HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVERSITY COUNCIL- Bambi Kuhl

Mrs. Kuhl reported that she spoke with Kathy Zahn who serves on the Diversity Council for the County of Hunterdon. They also work with the members of Helpline, Legal Services, Catholic Charities, and Somerset County Court. Their mission is mostly to provide information. They did not mention LGBTQ during the conversation.

OLD BUSINESS.

APRIL 4TH EVENT: Co-sponsoring invitation Sara Gold & Filomena Hengst to co-sponsor workshop April 4th on the basics of protecting immigrant rights. (decision required).

Mr. Woods reported that the HRC is not co-sponsoring this event.

City of Lambertville
Human Rights Council
7:30 PM, Tuesday, March 28, 2017
Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center
25 South Union Street, Lambertville, NJ

MINUTES

Page 3

LHRC BANNER: Discussion and decision on LHRC Banner with Logo. JW with Eric Rounds.

Mr. Woods reported that he has met with Mr. Rounds who has some great ideas but they are in his head and not on paper for him to share with the members of Council. He will press the issue with Mr. Rounds and circulate with the members of the HRC.

EVENTS UPDATES Immigration Workshops, We Are One Lambertville, SHAD Fest.

Mr. Woods informed the members of the board and public present that he attended the Recreation Commission meeting and we received approval for the June 4th event to be co-sponsored by Fisherman's Mark. He will continue to meet with Fisherman's Mark to define the event and then disseminate information to committee so that the membership can help with the event. Ideas include:

FOOD: There will be food for sale by local restaurants/vendors and Food Trucks. The public can also bring homemade prepared foods available for all to try for free with a disclaimer provided by the Hunterdon County Board of Health.

PORT O POTTIES: It is estimated that we will need 3 to 5 portopotties. It was suggested that we approach the LMUA to donate the portopotties.

DECORATIONS: Flags, Name Tags.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES: Face painting, games, music and activities would be provided to the public.

ROAD CLOSURES: Mr. Woods will meet with Fisherman's Mark to define the event and detail what road closures are needed if any.

The HRC members may need to meet weekly to discuss the event. Mr. Woods will let everyone know at our next meeting. The goal is to prepare a flyer to circulate during Shad Festival to the members of the public.

GOALS:

Mr. Woods informed the members of the HRC present that the following ideas are his contribution on potential Goals for HRC 2017

EDUCATION: Continue our own education of immigration issues and rights.

ACTIVITIES/EVENTS: Investigation Sponsoring/co-sponsoring community activities re Immigrant Rights and Community Inclusion consistent with our Mission and Vision.

OTHER HRCS: Engage with other regional Human Rights groups to identify areas where we can work together to improve inclusiveness with different vulnerable groups. As this group continues to evolve, we will need to crystalize our goals and vision. We can work with local community groups with ties to this immigrant population to help us identify areas that need work.

City of Lambertville
Human Rights Council
7:30 PM, Tuesday, March 28, 2017
Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center
25 South Union Street, Lambertville, NJ

MINUTES

Page 4

OTHER IDEAS:

Dan Seiter mentioned that at the High School the Board starts with a self-evaluation and it then evolves into a mission statement. He will obtain the generic information and share it with the HRC. It was noted that it may be too early for this HRC to take that path.

CORRESPONDENCE.

None.

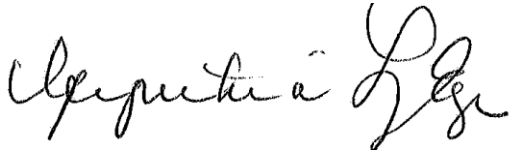
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

None.

ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. with a motion made by Dan Seiter and seconded by Bambi Kuhl. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia L. Ege". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "C".

Cynthia L. Ege, CMR, RMC, City Clerk