



**City of Lambertville
Human Rights Council
7 PM Monday January 29, 2018
Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center
25 S. Union Street, Lambertville NJ
MINUTES**

WELCOME – John Woods, Chairperson. Mr Woods informed that we have complied with the public notice requirements.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

OATH OF OFFICE

John Woods and Elizabeth Asaro were sworn in by Council President Steve Stegman

Kari Osmond was unable to attend .

ROLL CALL

Present: John Woods – Chairperson, Beth Asaro - Councilwoman, Bambi Kuhl – Director of Public Assistance, Steve Stegman – Council President, Dan Seiter – South Hunterdon Regional School Board Member, Emily Carone – Lambertville Public Library Board of Trustee Member, Mary Jane Leger Library Guest, Lt. Brown – Lambertville Police Force Liaison representative, Beth Caruso – Lambertville City Resident.

Absent: Cynthia Ege – Alternate.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

___ made a motion to elect Bambi Kuhl as Vice President and Beth Asaro to serve as Secretary. ___ seconded the motion. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

MEETING MINUTES

The following sets of minutes will be carried to the February 27th meeting agenda: May 30, 2017, October 2, 2017, and November 13, 2017.

NEW & OLD BUSINESS

Who is the LHRC ‘front door’ for community members that believe they have a human rights issue? Director Bruce Cocuzza of the Lambertville Police Dept is the front door for these issues. Reasoning behind this is that he will be able to ascertain what the current laws say about the situation – and as necessary, where there are gaps, make recommendations to the LHRC.

Community ID’s: Need update from Roni at Fisherman’s Mark. How many have been given out? Are they being used at banks (Bambi to advise). Update on County level IDs – and suggestions on what we can do to encourage this

Fair & Welcoming Communities Movement: Ron Glaser of Somerset County provided us with written info about this movement. This was distributed to members present.

Council agreed to review information – mainly FAQs - provided for discussion at next meeting.

Goal of review - What, if anything, do we want to do with this movement here in Lambertville? Do we want to do it informally or formally? In either case we will need to bring this to the City Council for support.

Governor Murphy is putting in place an Immigration Rights & Services ‘department’ that we need to learn more about. This info could be added to the 2nd annual Immigration & Rights Seminar being planned.

Beth Asaro investigating info to bring back to the LHRC.

John Woods contacting Derek Roseman for info on the administrations lead people in Immigrants Rights, so that we can consult on the state’s intentions on Sanctuary status.

2018 Plans & Focus Activities

2nd Annual “We Are One Lambertville” picnic

A meeting in Feb will be set to lay out all planning activities – set the date of the picnic, talk about communications/PR/social media, confirm partnering with Roni-Todd Marino at Fisherman’s Mark – the goal of the Feb meeting is to emerge with a firm project plan containing all issues that have to be addressed – and who owns each one.

Suggestion: hold it the 2nd Saturday of June, with the 2nd Sunday of June as a rain date – so for 2018 that would be 6/9 and 6/10.

Mariachi band needed/wanted – or a live band of some kind.

Goal is to add two (2) community tables to this year’s picnic, over time – and years – we would keep this growing and growing - suggestions for this year started with:

LPS (Dan to speak to Mrs. Ned) – Mary Jane suggested that Mrs. Ned used to have an international day that was a great success and fun. Might Mrs. Ned want to have that or bring that to the picnic? DAN SEITER AGREED TALK IT OVER WITH MRS. NED.

Stockton Catholic Hispanic Group – understand that the Hispanic group that used to be in Lambertville is now in Stockton. Might they want to have a table at the picnic? NEED TO IDENTIFY SOMEONE TO SPECIFICALLY ASK THEM.

Other groups that were suggested: United Methodist Church (who hold pay as you can luncheons weekly) – BETH WILL SPEAK TO THIS GROUP.

We need to continue to grow this list as reference.

2nd Annual Immigration Rights & Issues Seminar

A meeting in Feb will be organized to consult with Roni Todd Marino, Fisherman’s Mark about these immigration sessions

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HRC 2018 Municipal Equality Index

Assist Cindy Ege and Mayor Del Vecchio in completing the HRC MEI.

Understand gaps identified by the HRC MEI survey and discuss how to close gaps with the LHRC.

Consultations: Meet with members of South Hunterdon District and the Lambertville Public Library re their activities to promote inclusion in our communities.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm with a motion made by ____ and seconded by _____. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED.