

**City of Lambertville
Human Rights Council
7 PM Monday February 11th, 2019
Phillip J. Pittore Justice Center
25 South Union Street, Lambertville, NJ
MINUTES**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

John Woods led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: John Woods – Chairperson, Lt. Bob Brown – Lambertville Police Force Liaison Representative, Roni Todd-Marino – Mayor’s Representative, Bambi Kuhl – Director of Public Assistance, Emily Carone – Library Representative,

Absent: Meagan Warner – South Hunterdon Regional School Board Member, Mary Jane Legere – Library Alternate. Beth Asaro – City Council President, Beth Caruso - Resident.

Public/Visitor: David Gardiner, Effie Castro

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of 1/7/19 meeting minutes – moved by Mary Jane Legere, seconded by Bambi Kuhl, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

- John Woods introduced invited guests, David Gardiner and Effie Castro, and discussed the Council’s efforts to recruit members from the Latino population. John confirmed the Council’s intention to request approval from City Council to expand our membership to 11, to include David and Effie.
- John shared that Mayor Fahl and the City Attorney offered a training to review best practices for city councils and committees. John reminded the group that all council business must be within our meetings, and that informal discussion, even via email, is outside the OPRA and OPMA guidelines.
- Subgroup report out.
 - SENIORS: Bambi Kuhl with Emily Carone – Discussed hosting “Movie Nights” at Heritage Village. Looking at March for first event. Bambi shared that cost is limited to food because the movie would be provided by the “Friends of the Library”. Emily also discussed idea of a book delivery services

- IMMIGRANTS: Roni Todd-Marino, Beth Caruso and Effie Castro – Discussed We Are 1 event and how it is an event for all subgroups. Group decided to again solicit sponsorships to cover costs. Funding would be limited to promotion and possibly t-shirts. Effie agreed to coordinate a food potluck. It was clarified that they food would be to share rather than for sale. Roni will work with Cindy Ege to ensure compliance with health codes.
- STUDENTS: Mary Jane Legere with Leslie Darling – Mary Jane stated that Carly Isabella (LPS School Counselor) has agreed to come to the March meeting to report on school bullying. Mary Jane also discussed idea to host multiple “Peace Events” on Martin Luther King Day 2020. Lesley approached LPS staff and one issue raised is transportation to medical appointments. Discussion of funding and logistics of providing this resource. Leslie also asked to correct a statement she made at the January meeting. Upon research, Leslie found out that the homework support program at LPS is only available to children referred by the school staff. And it is only 2x/week for 2 hours. Leslie spoke to Principal Quinones to get her recommendations.
- MENTAL HEALTH: John Woods with Lt. Brown. John met with County Mental Health Coordinator Megan Ibitski to discuss Stigma Free City process. She indicated that it only takes a resolution from City Council declaring that Lambertville a Stigma Free City. John discussed first offering a training to the community on stigma. John gave details on the NAMI Smarts for Advocacy training and efforts to recruit individuals willing to go through the storytelling training to learn how to share their experiences to educate the community.
- LGBTQ+: Meagan Warner with Beth Asaro – neither member was present. A question arose during discussion - Is there is current LGBTQ+ support group at SHRSB?
- Team Leader Assignments: Send summary of proposed activities via email to John including budget for each event

NEW BUSINESS

No new business presented, other than topics discussed within each subcommittee.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:41pm with a motion made by Bambi Kuhl and seconded by Leslie Darling. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion to adjourn.
MOTION CARRIED.