



Clinton Human Rights Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 7:00 pm

- Call to Order - Meeting began at 7:04 pm
- Roll Call:

Amanda Corcoran - Present	Brendan Saunders - Present
Ava Crayton, <i>Vice Chair</i> - Present	Leah Scoppa - Present
Laurie Jaffe - Present	Tom Shultz, <i>Chair</i> - Present
Natalie Jones - Absent	Caitlin Turner, <i>Secretary</i> - Absent
Josue Rodriquez, <i>Student Advisor</i> - Absent	David Melillo, <i>ex officio member</i> - Present
- Guests - None
- Approval of January 25, 2022 Minutes
 - Brendan made motion to approve.
 - Amanda seconded.
 - Motion passed unanimously.
- Correspondence – None
- Discussion and action on Caitlin Turner committee membership
 - Tom stated that Caitlyn has missed four committee meetings. He has reached out to her by email and phone on several occasions but has not heard back. Committee members discussed the importance of having a full seven-member committee and agreed that Caitlin’s seat should be filled by someone else. The committee discussed the possibility of Joe Carapella (who was a guest at last month’s committee meeting) becoming a committee member. Laurie made a motion to replace Caitlin Turner as a committee member and for Tom, as committee Chair, to advise the Clinton Town Council that she will be replaced. The motion passed unanimously. Tom indicated he will advise the Town Council and further, that he will recommend Joe for the seat if Joe is still interested. Committee members agreed that Tom’s recommendation does not preclude other people applying for a seat on the committee.
- New secretary for the committee
 - Because Caitlin had served as Secretary of the committee, a new Secretary

must be selected. Laurie stated she is willing to be Secretary. Amanda moved to nominate Laurie to be Secretary and Ava seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Approval of Mayors Statement on Antisemitism – Laurie**
Committee members discussed the “Mayors United Against Antisemitism” statement that Tom had presented at last month’s committee meeting. Ava made a motion for the committee to approve that statement and for the committee to present the statement to the Town Council for the Council’s approval. Brendan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Tom will arrange for this matter to be placed on the agenda of the next Town Council meeting and Laurie will attend that meeting to address the council.
- **Relationship with Clinton Public Schools - Tom, Ava, Amanda; and Morgan School News - Abel, Leah**
Tom attended a meeting of the Morgan School Social Justice Club. Leah stated that the “countries of origin” project at Morgan is getting wrapped up this month. She also advised that in March, there will be a project about Women’s History Month, and a culture fair is planned for April and May. Amanda asked if any interest has been expressed in starting a social justice club at Eliot Middle School. Committee members think this idea is worth exploring. Tom and Laurie met with Maryann O’Donnell and Marco Famiglietti to discuss ways in which the CHRC can collaborate with the schools.
- **Meetings with HCH Library and other possible partners - Tom and Laurie**
Tom and Laurie met with Sarah Borgnis-Tobin, Adult Program Director at HCH, to discuss developing library initiatives. They discussed having an art show at the library in April exhibiting the work of Morgan students. Further discussion with the Morgan art teacher about such a show will hopefully take place soon. Also, they discussed a possible program in April in recognition of National Poetry Month. Tom, Laurie, and Sarah also discussed having the library host a weekly series in the summer, perhaps over the course of six weeks, with speakers discussing assorted topics and having live music.
- **Social Media - Tom**
The CHRC is promoting Black History Month on its Facebook page.
- **Health Equity ideas/communications – Amanda**
Tom and Laurie raised “Period Poverty” at the meeting with O’Donnell and Famiglietti. From correspondence received after that meeting, it appears that the school district does not view this as a problem. Amanda indicated that she is still brainstorming for other projects to pursue. Leah said she is

considering writing an article about Period Poverty and has been talking to students about this matter. David talked about the difficulty that certain communities face in accessing health care services, for example, children in foster care.

- Research and demographics - Laurie, David
No discussion of any new matters.
- Grants - Laurie, David, Tom
No discussion of any new matters.
- Podcast/video storytelling presence - Brendan, Tom, Natalie
Brendan said he did his first podcast, with writer Drew Ladd. It is on YouTube.
Discussion was held about linking future podcasts to the committee's Facebook page.
- Messaging - brainstorm ideas for catchy slogan on yard signs, stickers - All, Tom, Natalie
No discussion of any new matters.
- Afghan Refugee Resettlement with IRIS - Ava
This is still pending.
- Statement on Equity - Ava
This is still pending.
- Ongoing discussion of targets and goals – All
No discussion of any new matters.
- New Business
Amanda mentioned that there is a new Facebook page, "All Things Clinton Uncensored," which appears to be an offshoot of the "All Things Clinton" page. The page contains posts that are homophobic, racist, and sexist. Committee members discussed possible courses of action, such as bringing the page to the Town Council's attention. Members also discussed how to effectively reach out to people who post such messages and hold such beliefs, to try to encourage them to change their opinions.
- Adjournment
Tom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Motion was made by Ava and seconded by Amanda.
Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.