



Clinton Human Rights Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 7:00 pm

- **Call to Order** - Meeting began at 7:03 pm

- **Roll Call:**

Amanda Corcoran - Present

Ava Crayton, *Vice Chair* - Present

Laurie Jaffe, *Secretary* – Present

Natalie Jones - Present

David Melillo, *ex officio member* - Present

Abby Roccapriore – Absent

Josue Rodriguez, *Student Advisor* - Present

Brendan Saunders - Present

Leah Scoppa, *Student Advisor* – Absent

Tom Shultz, *Chair* – Present

- **Guests** – None

- **Approval of January Minutes**

Brendan made a motion to approve the minutes.

Natalie seconded.

Meeting minutes approved.

- **Correspondence**

Tom noted that he received a letter from the Center for Policing Equity thanking him for meeting with the Center’s staff last week. (This meeting is discussed below under “New Business.”)

- **Clinton Community Conversations on Suicide** – David

David reported that the third Community Conversation was held last month, with 41 people in attendance, including the Morgan wrestling team and coaches. Questions discussed included what Clinton does well, and what populations should be addressed.

Brendan noted that he has gotten positive feedback about the Community Conversations from several people. David noted that the Town’s Human Services Department offers free therapy for eligible Clinton residents; the current age range for this service is 5-21 but he wants to raise the age cut-off to 25. If a person is out of the age range, the Town will pay \$100 per session for a set number of therapy sessions.

- **Relationship with Clinton Public Schools – Tom**
Tom reported that nothing is new, other than continuing work on designing the Social Justice Club logo.
- **Morgan School news – Abel, Leah**
Abel noted that work continues identifying aspects of the Social Justice Club logo. The club’s current focus is to expand membership. An Open House was held recently, which was successful, and the club has some new members. One of the new members suggested that flags representing the home countries of new students be flown in front of the school entrance. Also, Abel reported on a research/survey project he has started, in which new immigrants will be asked about basic problems they face.
- **Outdoor Chautauqua summer program at the library – Tom and Laurie**
Tom reported that there are no new developments. He noted that he and Amanda further discussed her suggestion that, in addition to the *Chautauqua* program, the committee do a presentation on LGBTQ+ issues. One idea is to present such a program as part of a presentation by the Clinton Arts Council. They will explore this possibility.
- **Documentary series at library Winter 2023 – Tom and Ava**
Tom thanked Ava for her work on the film series. He and Laurie noted how powerful the last film in the series (“For Walter and Josiah”) was.
- **Social Media – Tom**
No other discussion.
- **Health Equity ideas/communications – Amanda**
Amanda said she will speak with a friend who works at a community health center about ideas for outreach.
- **Research and demographics - Laurie, David**
No new discussion.
- **Grants - Laurie, David, Tom**
No new discussion.
- **Podcast/video storytelling presence – Brendan, Tom**
Brendan reported that a new YouTube interview is up: [v=ujfTNNcS_Wyl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujfTNNcS_Wyl). Also, he is working on interviews with Abel, and Miner Vincent. He noted that he will probably put up the long form interviews and then edit them to make shorter snippets.

- **Messaging** - Tom, Natalie
Tom reported that he will be setting up a meeting with Natalie and David. He also would like to inquire about whether the committee can use the Town's electronic message boards to publicize CHRC events and to post regular positive messages to the community.
- **Afghan Refugee Resettlement with IRIS** - Ava
No new discussion. Ava noted that there is not an ongoing connection with IRIS.
- **Statement on Equity update** – Tom and Ava
Tom reported that he forwarded the draft statement to Ava, who will review it.
- **Ongoing discussion of targets and goals** – All
No new discussion.
- **New Business**
Tom reported that he met with a group from the Center for Policing Equity. He felt it was a productive discussion. He said the team told him that Clinton is the only town they are working with that has a human rights committee and they were impressed by that. Tom said the group noted that the thin blue-line flag issue will come up in the Center's evaluation of the Police Department. Tom said he plans to meet one-on-one with the Police Chief about this matter. Natalie commented that she and a few other people met with the Chief about a community matter and the flag issue came up. Natalie thought the Chief was defensive about it; he said the flag pre-dated the George Floyd protests and the symbol existed before it became an issue. Tom noted that David also met with the Center team.
- **Adjournment**
Tom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Motion was made by Amanda and seconded by Brendon.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm