



Clinton Human Rights Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 7:00 pm

- Call to Order - Meeting began at 7:02 pm
- Roll Call:

Amanda Corcoran - Present	Brendan Saunders - Present
Ava Crayton, <i>Vice Chair</i> - Absent	Leah Scoppa, <i>Student Advisor</i> - Present
Laurie Jaffe, <i>Secretary</i> - Present	Tom Shultz, <i>Chair</i> - Present
Natalie Jones - Present	Caitlin Turner - Absent
Josue Rodriquez, <i>Student Advisor</i> - Present	David Melillo, <i>ex officio member</i> - Present
- Guests - None
- Morgan School news - Leah, Abel, Tom
Leah reported that the “countries of origin” map is up, and that the wall exhibit for Women’s History Month is up. Abel reported that the Social Justice Club has a new Project. Starting in April, and continuing through the end of the school year, the club will be gathering school supplies for elementary school students who have just arrived in Clinton from other countries. The committee discussed doing publicity for this project. Tom reported on a mural project “Instagrammable Clinton” that will be a joint project between the Clinton Arts Council and Morgan School, with the CHRC’s participation. Morgan students will participate by creating topics and ideas which a professional muralist will interpret to design and paint “mobile” murals to display at school and other town locations where students can pose and uplad there photos in front of murals.
- Approval of February 22, 2022 Minutes
Brendan made motion to approve.
Amanda seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.
- Correspondence - None
- Discussion and action on Caitlin Turner committee membership
Tom reported that he was advised by the Town that Caitlin cannot be replaced until she has missed 66 and 2/3 percent of the committee’s meetings. Joe Carapella, who had previously expressed interest in being a member,

is not interested at this time, so Tom asked the committee to think about whether they know people who might be interested.

- Town mandated return to in-person meetings in May TBD
No discussion was held.
- Approval of Mayors Statement on Antisemitism update - Laurie
The statement will be on the agenda of the April 6, 2022 Town Council meeting. Laurie will attend that meeting to request that the Council approve the statement.
- Relationship with Clinton Public Schools - Tom
See discussion above under “Morgan School news” for discussion about the Morgan Student Social Justice Mural Project.
- Meetings with HCH Library - Tom and Laurie
Tom reported on the follow-up meeting he and Laurie had with Sarah Borgnis-Tobin at HCH, at which they discussed having a program of weekly meetings in the summer. Tom proposed a program modeled after the Chautauqua format, which was popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in rural America. It would involve having speakers on assorted topics along with refreshments and, hopefully, live music. The committee members thought this was a good idea and discussed possible speakers. They also discussed the fact that parents might bring their children to the programs, so a “family friendly” environment would be appropriate. Natalie offered to seek food donations from vendors in town.
- Social Media - Tom
No discussion was held.
- Health Equity ideas/communications - Amanda
There was no discussion on specific topic, although committee members discussed data noted by Amanda and David showing that Middlesex County is the least diverse county in Connecticut, and that Clinton has the second highest number of people living below the poverty line in Middlesex County (after Middletown).
- Research and demographics - Laurie, David
Other than the data noted above under “Health Equity ideas/communications,” no discussion was held.
- Grants - Laurie, David, Tom
No discussion was held about grants for CHRC. David reported on ARPA money that the Town’s Human Services department has received.

- Podcast/video storytelling presence - Brendan, Tom
Brendan had nothing new to report.
- Messaging - brainstorm ideas for catchy slogan on yard signs, stickers - All, Tom, Natalie
No discussion was held.
- Afghan Refugee Resettlement with IRIS - Ava
Tom reported that Ava advised him that a representative from IRIS will attend the CHRC's April meeting, and also that two refugee families are being settled here in town. There is a need of the families for perishable food items, toiletries and a computer for one family. Ava and Tom were going to explore ways to help and Ava and Tom volunteered to collect these items if people wanted to drop at their homes.
- Statement on Equity - Ava
Tom reported that the Equity Statement needs further work.
- Ongoing discussion of targets and goals - All
No discussion was held.
- New Business
No discussion was held.
- Adjournment
Tom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Motion was made by Natalie Ava and seconded by Brendan.
Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting was adjourned shortly 8:00 p.m.