

**Town of Hartford Committee on Racial Inequality
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, January 3rd, 2018
7:00 to 9:00pm**

Committee Members Present: Michelle Boleski, Sara Campbell (Vice-Chair), Allene Swienckowski, Nancy Russell, Simon Dennis (Clerk), John Hall (Chair), Becca White.

Item	Notes
Welcome, Agenda Review	The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00.
Interactions & Review of Minutes	<p>Sara Campbell made a motion to approve the HCORI minutes of the 11;28/17 meeting, Simon seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.</p> <p>Sara Campbell read HCORI’s meeting norms. The committee discussed the norm regarding the resolution of internal conflict. Methods for resolving interpersonal conflict and a committee-wide commitment to do so were discussed.</p>
Basic Process	<p>We discussed how we can continue to improve committee process.</p> <p>Rules of Procedure: Vermont League of Cities and Towns sample bylaws were discussed. The Chair discussed Robert’s Rules. According to VT open Meeting Law, there is no specific set of rules that we need to adopt. We should consider adopting a set of rules and this conversation will go on a future agenda.</p> <p>Project management: We have several projects going on, keeping track of them all is worth doing. The Chair suggested Trello as a project management system. It was agreed that Trello needed to be used for information sharing and would be in violation of open meeting when “electronic dialogue” is taking place.</p> <p>Rather than formally adopt Tello now, the Chair recommended giving each person a chance to learn about it before making a decision about it’s adoption.</p> <p>We discussed alignment of our tasks with our Charge and agreed that in addition to the ongoing projects we have been working on regarding Education and Hartford PD Education, that we should also focus on 1.) School Board and Selectboard policy recommendations and 2.) making a recommendation to the School Board and Selectboard regarding the future of the committee.</p>

<p>Committee Applications</p>	<p>The committee reviewed the status of incoming applications and discussed acceptance criteria for new members & draft/wording of appeal to applicants. We have currently received one application. At our next meeting, we will schedule interviews. It is assumed that we can conduct these interviews in executive session. Simon will double check with the Town Manager.</p> <p>Allene Swienckowski made a motion that the Committee contact the newspapers to advertise the vacancies. Sara Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Seven votes in favor. Zero against. John will post a letter to the editor in the VN and other papers.</p> <p>Discussion about the pros and cons of opening a Facebook Page. Simon Dennis made a motion that HCORI open a Facebook page for posting vacancies. Nancy Russell seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Seven votes in favor. Zero opposed. Sara Campbell volunteered to post vacancies on Daily UV and listservs.</p> <p>The Clerk’s sense of this motion was that it implied that the Facebook page could be either subsequently taken down or used for other functions but that these actions would need to be ratified by the HCORI.</p>
<p>CATV Taping</p>	<p>There has been a lot of question about the pros and cons of having CATV video our meetings.</p> <p>Allene Swienckowski: Our civic democracy depends upon people knowing what others are doing on their behalf.</p> <p>John Hall gave an example of video clip being taken out of context.</p> <p>Nancy Russell spoke in favor of maintaining the CATV coverage for purposes of transparency which she said is particularly important for a committee of this sort.</p> <p>Sara Campbell would prefer not to film and encourage people to attend in person. Filming can be used as a targeted personal attack.</p> <p>Michelle also spoke against the filming. Saying it is an obstruction of our ability to get our work done.</p> <p>John: The minutes are less likely to be used as a personal attack than video footage. When video clips are put on facebook, the custom is for HCORI members to not defend themselves.</p> <p>Nancy: Are we afraid to be filmed? Our meetings are not likely to be full of attendees. Not filming stifles engagement.</p>

	<p>Michelle: Our primary mission is to accomplish our charge, which we can do more effectively without filming.</p> <p>Allene: If someone has a place where they can go to where they can hear the free flow of ideas, it is important to maintain that. If we shut doors, work gets much harder.</p> <p>Mr Swienckowski (from audience): The whole purpose is to affect people in the community, which can happen better if people have more access. Trolls will be trolls, if you are getting a whole bunch of haters, good! That's who needs to see it.</p> <p>Mr Johnson (from audience): If you will not allow filming, will you allow a reporter? You can't prevent them from filming. You can set reasonable rules. Chris Winters, Secretary of State, stated that it is not legal to prevent filming. Simon will double check on this with the Town Manager.</p> <p>Mr Johnson (from audience): Observed that HCORI is town government. You represent us and are doing town work.</p> <p>Simon Dennis: Is there a good fit between sub-committee work and filming? We should have had a vote before inviting the camera into our meeting space.</p> <p>Becca White: Appreciated having the camera here. She shudders to think what would have happened if there was no filming of the recent exchange that attracted the attention of the press.</p> <p>Sara Campbell: The Facebook environment does not uphold high standards of civic discourse.</p> <p>Michelle Boleski: Feels she has jumped into the deep end. Has censored herself.</p> <p>It was agreed that we were not going to resolve this issue this evening and that we would take this issue up at the next meeting.</p>
<p>Next Steps & Closing Statements</p>	<p>We agreed we would meet on alternate Wednesday beginning on the 17th. Becca White moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. Nancy Russell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.</p>