

Hartford Committee On Racial Inequality Minutes - January 17, 2018

In Attendance: Michelle Boleski, Becca White, John Hall (Chair), Sara Campbell (Vice-Chair), Simon Dennis (Clerk).

From the community: Chris Campbell (Sara Campbell's son)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

Becca White made a motion to amend the agenda to allow time to discuss the process going forward. Michelle Boleski seconded it and all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously with five votes in favor and zero opposed.

Discussion of Group Norms

Sara Campbell said she would like to organize group norms in terms of procedural and awareness norms. There was a general nodding of heads.

Sara Campbell made a motion to accept the January 3rd, 2018 minutes. All were in favor. The motion passed five votes in favor and zero against.

CATV Filming

Becca said that if we would like to, we could send a friendly note to the CATV Executive Director, saying that we would prefer if they did not attend. Michelle said that she was more relaxed not being filmed.

Simon said that he had exchanged emails with the Town Manager about whether or not the CATV had the right to film meetings, and that he had responded that he found that the HCORI had no legal ground to disinvite CATV from filming the meeting. No conclusion was reached and no action was taken.

Education Sub-Committee Report

Michelle Boleski reported that she attended a meeting which included Tom Debalsi, Noel Briant High School, Dotham Brook, Quechee Elementary Principals. Michelle stated that she had encountered some tender feelings on the part of the School Administration regarding HCORI's involvement reviewing the School System. She shared about social programs in the school regarding anti-bullying. They did not talk about race. There was a second meeting involving Principal of the White River and Middle School that Michelle was not able to attend, but that Allene did attend. Michelle suggested that Allene was the note taker and would be in a better position to report on these meetings and that HCORI should

entertain a presentation from her at a subsequent meeting. It was mentioned that it should be included in the recommendations for the committee charge.

Facebook

Sara Campbell reported that the page is live but not posted because. She said that she would post the openings for applicants on the Town Hall Page.

Process Going Forward

Becca reported that her sense of the conversation at the previous Selectboard Meeting was that the Selectboard would be amenable to a request for an extension.

It was observed that there are only two HCORI meetings between now and election, and that therefore we should aim to present to the new board.

Simon proposed that we could focus on the three objectives: creation of a new charge, policy guidelines, recommendations regarding the police curriculum and that we move on these items prior to the deadline.

Sara Campbell made a motion to accept Ann Reynolds onto the HCORI and to consider additional applications at a later date.

The Chair made a friendly amendment that the motion should read to move to recommend to the Selectboard to appoint Ann Reynolds onto Hartford Committee on Racial Inequality. And that we could authorise the Chair to draft a memo explaining our reasoning for taking this action.

The amendment was accepted by Sara Campbell and Becca White. The Chair called the question. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Simon and Becca agreed to serve on a Policy Sub-Committee to investigate how Elected Officials could be held accountable. The pros and cons of having the two Selectboard members serving on this committee, it was agreed that the pros outweigh the cons and that the sub-sub-committee would go forward. They agreed that this policy would need three parts: the policy itself, the penalty for violation and the adjudicating body.

Becca moved to close the meeting at 8:35 pm. Simon Dennis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Humbly submitted by Simon Dennis, HCORI Clerk