

**Town of Hartford Committee on Racial Equity & Inclusion**  
**Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**7pm to 8:30pm**

In Attendance: Michelle Boleski, John Hall, Sara Campbell, Allene Swienckowski, Kim Souza – Ann Reynolds via speaker phone  
Community Member in attendance: Stan Swienckowski

Review and pass minutes from the previous meeting. Allene made motion to pass minutes, Sara seconded. Vote unanimously passed.

Reports on community, civic, and legislative work, etc.:

Ann reported on Informational meeting about Toward Racial healing workshops April 6 and May 4: host St. Paul's Committee About Racial Justice (CARJ) with co-sponsors UVIP & SURJ with Facilitators Gabrielle Lucke & Theodosia Cook at Saint Paul's Church, WRJ, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am. HCOREI members invited.

Kim reported that the potential Dandelions public forum considered for spring will be postponed until fall 2019.

Allene expressed a desire for more community outreach to build relationships with the public to let them know what HCOREI is about and to reach out to more people of color. Establishing connections with other community groups could help with this. Likewise, she suggested that we might consider a note to new HPD hires to welcome them to communication with our committee.

Sara is compiling a community resource list. She will share the document with the committee chair and members can request access individually if desired.

The group discussed AG TJ Donovan's visit to WRJ and lack of criminal charges against the self-proclaimed white nationalist harasser of Kiah Morris. There was discussion around the potential for a panel or public forum to address the issues relating to the AG's decision and the limitations within the current Vermont legislation. How can the laws address psychological harm as well as threats or acts of physical harm? How do we deal with hate speech in VT? Are there NH laws relating to Impact vs. Intent?

A motion was made by Kim to explore the possibility of establishing a panel including Attorney General TJ Donovan with the objective of looking at the limitations of the First Amendment and harassment in Vermont. Allene Seconded. Ann made the amendment that we will explore possibility of holding a public forum on the topic of how we can support groups and individuals when they are harassed and threatened. Amendment was seconded by Allene. Amendment passed. Motion passed.

Kim noted that HCOREI might want to represent at the Coffee with Committees event that happens prior to the Town Meeting Day in March. Kim will collect details and share them with the group. Likewise, Michelle suggested that our group might also look in to

hosting a table at the annual Hartford Community Coalition Community Day Celebration in Lyman Park. This would be another opportunity to do some community outreach.

Simon has approached Sara about organizing another Climbing PoeTree concert. It was a great event that really focused on and attracted POCs in the region. It is not yet determined if this is something that HCOREI would be involved in, or if members might participate on an individual, voluntary basis.

John, Sarah & Kim will meet with Leo to learn more about the RFP process. They will report back to the group at the next meeting.

The motion to adjourn at 8:40pm was made by Sara. Kim Seconded.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Souza, Clerk.