

Town of Hartford Committee on Racial Equity & Inclusion
Wednesday, February 26th, 2020
6pm to 7:30pm

In Attendance: John Hall (Chair) Sara Campbell (Vice Chair), Kim Souza (Clerk), Ann Reynolds, Michelle Boleski, Jameson Davis

Pat Autilio, Joan ____, Becky Whitney, Community Members
(Michelle, Pat & Becky left at 7pm)

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Ann moved to approve the 02.12.20 minutes as presented. Michelle seconded and the vote passed unanimously.

Review Current Applicants to HCOREI

The first interview, with Joe Major, has taken place. Sub-committee members were pleased with the interview questions and process and will use the same method for subsequent interviews.

An additional application has been received from Pat Autilio.

The sub-committee will interview Alicia Barrow at 6pm and Pat Autilio at 7pm on Thursday, March 5th.

Coffee with Committees at Town Meeting Day

Jameson moved that HCOREI table at the Coffee with Committees segment of Town Meeting Day with himself & Sara representing the committee. Sara seconded the motion. Kim will provide the table & some hand-out materials. Michelle will be responsible for breaking down the 'booth' materials. The motion passed unanimously.

Election

The Chair requested that the committee view the various ballot initiatives through a lens of equity. Are there items on the ballot that address access issues?

A lengthy discussion took place around the proposed public swimming pool regarding equity and access.

The Sept 3rd version of the Welcoming Hartford Ordinance will be placed in all voting booths. Town Manager said nothing else will be in the voting booths. Kim will inquire if that includes anything about the carbon neutrality article as well.

Town Communication Regarding Election Items

A FAQ document was posted by the Town Manager which was considered biased and inaccurate by the Selectboard. The Selectboard voted to request the Town Manger remove the document from the Town website. It was removed on Feb 26.

Policy

Concerns were expressed regarding social media interactions of Town employees. HCOREI will continue to review existing Town policies and consider recommendations for policy enhancements once the Strategic Plan for Equity & Inclusivity has been received. It is likely that the strategic plan will include recommendations for policy improvements.

Other Business

Jameson is publishing a statement in the Valley News as a 'Thank you letter to Hartford'. It was read at the Feb 25 Selectboard meeting.

The next scheduled meeting will be March 18. No further meeting dates were determined. Once the committee members are chosen by School & Town liaison, post-election and community member interviews, subsequent dates will be chosen based on the current members' schedules.

Upcoming meeting dates (**beginning at 6pm**) are:

Applicant Interviews, Thurs, Mar 5 (6pm + 7pm)
Wed, Mar 18

The motion to adjourn at 7:40pm was made by Jameson. Seconded by Sara.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Souza, Clerk.