

## **HCOREI Meeting Minutes**

10/2/18

7:00 PM

In attendance: John Hall, Ann Raynolds, Kim Souza, Jameson Davis, Allene Swienckowski  
Absent, Michelle Boleski, Nancy Russell, Sara Campbell.

Community Members: Peggy Richardson, Stanley Swienckowski, Simon Dennis (taking minutes on behalf of the Chair)

The Chair Called the meeting to order at 7:08.

Brought up the matter of the minutes.

Ann moved passage of the minutes. Allene seconded.

All voted in favor and none opposed and the motion passed unanimously, five votes in favor and none opposed.

Climbing Poetree debrief: Sara Campbell was not able to attend the last Climbing PoeTree meeting but Kim gave a report. Simon will reach out to Sara to be the event manager. Publicity is in the works. Joie and Simon have press releases going out. Kim is working on a facebook campaign. The focus right now is on securing attendance and securing funding. General support for the event HCOREI's roll as a collaborator was reaffirmed through a general nodding of heads.

Discussion of how HCOREI members should respond to facebook posts or racist dialogue on social media. The incident when there was a recent series of racist comments series on facebook posts on the Town of Hartford Informational page. Simon and Jameson shared about their experience talking with the couple who made the offensive comments. Jameson shared that he was surprised by how great of a divide he encountered. He shared that he had a hard time believing that they were unaware that the term "African American" is in use as a synonym for black people. Allene shared about the value of giving the opportunity of people to explain their point of view. Ann shared that in her day no one ever talked about the racism coming forward.

It was mentioned that it is important when writing publicly or in a letter to the editor to mention that HCOREI members are not speaking on behalf of the Committee, even though they may mention that they are members of the Committee.

The recent Valley News Story about Fort Lou's Restaurant was discussed.

Kim mentioned that there has recently been concern that the HCOREI committee could deviate from its charge by getting too involved with current events.

This surfaced a need to review HCOREI's charge in its most recent form which was just recently passed, as amended by the Selectboard, by the School Board. It was agreed that this would be put on a subsequent agenda.

Individual (public) communications should address what comes up on a one-to-one basis and extend an invitation; We invite you to the table, we invite you to come to this meeting. Allene demonstrated and agreed.

It was agreed that the priorities that were listed in previous meetings should be broken out in a specific document; create objectives doc.

It was agreed that we would consider if there could be a different day that would work better for people? John said he would discuss with the committee at the next meeting the possibility of changing the meeting to Wednesday rather than Tuesday. Regardless of this, the next meeting will take place on October 16th at 7:00.

Recorded as a volunteer on behalf of the HCOREI Chair,  
~Simon Dennis

Reviewed and amended before submission by the HCOREI Chair,  
~John Hall