



ATTLEBORO COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING INFORMATION

Date: Wednesday, February 17th, 2021

Location: Zoom virtual meeting

<https://brown.zoom.us/j/93162297271?pwd=anlZVEpRcGRnSkFmU1ZBK0ZKcXU0UT09>

Time: 6:30-8pm

Meeting Type: Council on Human Rights Monthly Meeting

Attendees: ACHR members: Mary Flaherty, Stephanie Gray, Barbara Clark, Ashley Stewart, Ellen Parker, and Steve Berdos. Chairperson: Laurie Sawyer. Guests: Brenda Young from Capron Park Zoo, Jessica Reagan Salzman, and Sue.

1. Chairperson Laurie Sawyer opened the meeting
2. **VOTE:** Approve minutes from 1/20/2021 meeting. Ellen omitted from minutes, will add.
 - A. **YAY:** Laurie Sawyer, Mary Flaherty, Stephanie Gray, Barbara Clark, Ashley Stewart, Ellen Parker, Steve Berdos
 - B. **NAY:** None
3. Guest speaker: Brenda Young, Assistant Director of Capron Park Zoo
 - A. AZA accredited since 2000, part of the species survival program
 - B. SAFE: Saving Animals from Extinction
 - C. DEAI: Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion
 - i. Update diversity statement
 - ii. Staff member dedicated to implementing/maintaining DEAI
 - iii. Reviewing policies/programs
 - iv. Disability/sensory updates
 - D. Future collaboration opportunities for ACHR and CPZ
4. Black History Month social media post update: Mary has enough bios for graphics
5. Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day
 - A. Goals
 - i. Curriculum – what’s being taught in schools?
 - ii. Why did it happen?
 - iii. What can people do?
 - B. Speakers

- i. David Sawyer, Attleboro Schools Superintendent: district's perspective relative to curriculum development. Confirmed.
 - ii. Mark Mamigonian, Director of Education for the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research: various forms of genocide denial, what purpose they serve, and the impact it has on people. Confirmed.
 - iii. Peter Balakian, Pulitzer Prize winning author. Unconfirmed.
 - C. Need council volunteers for parts in event
 - i. Intro, History, Quotes, Introducing Speakers, Conclusion, Art
 - D. Need to confirm date of the event – dependent on Peter Balakian
 - E. Barbara offered to reach out to the Attleboro Arts Museum
6. QR card distribution – ready to go out. Stephanie will follow up with Ashley with list and to collect cards
7. Jessica Reagan Salzman to go in front of city council to be voted on to be our newest member
8. Steve Berdos: seeking reasonable accommodations at work, going on 11 months without a printer, which is an accommodation for his learning disabilities. Stephanie will send him the link for the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination claim file webpage
9. Swastika carved into picnic table at Plainville apartment complex
 - A. https://www.thesunchronicle.com/news/local_news/attleboro-conservation-commission-meeting-zoombombed/article_7c73c693-7242-58f4-8167-6306aab686f6.html
 - B. Stephanie to start a list of hate incidents to monitor over time
10. Member appointment updates
 - A. Ellen not returning for another appointment. We will miss you, Ellen!
 - B. Barbara TBD – Laurie will follow up with her.
 - C. Laurie will be seeking elected office in the fall. If elected, she will need to resign from the council.
11. Social media update: State Senator Becca Rausch has been sharing our Black History Month posts every day.
12. Diversity & Inclusion hub – physical space at Highland Park? Discussed Taunton Diversity Network as an inspiration for a similar group here in Attleboro.
13. World Water Day – Mary suggested working together with the Attleboro Water Department to observe World Water Day
14. Motion to end the meeting
 - A. YAY: Laurie Sawyer, Stephanie Gray, Ellen Parker, Ashley Stewart, Mary Flaherty
 - B. NAY: None

Action Items:

- Barbara to reach out to the Attleboro Arts Museum re: Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day event
- Stephanie will follow up with Ashley with list and to collect cards to distribute
- Stephanie will send Steve the link for the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination claim file webpage
- Laurie will follow up with Barbara re: appointment to ACHR

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 from 6:30-8pm