Human Rights Commission (HRC)
Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2021 via Zoom

Attending: Ravi Koil; Colleen Jones-Turner; Pedro Vazquez; Margaret Brownlee; Adele Edelman; Stephanie Weaver; JadeRose SanGiovanni; Jodi Mezzanotte
Absent: Alma Ogweta; Milan Nevajda; Erick Giles; Jill Barkley Roy; Amy Berry

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm. Chair Pedro Vazquez facilitated the meeting.

- The meeting rules were read.
- Informal check-ins with members followed.
- Minutes of the Feb 11, 2021, meeting were approved with Ravi moving for approval and Adele seconding.

- PUBLIC COMMENT: Rani McLeod, South Portland resident, noted her concern with an ongoing school incident involving her child and a teacher. Discussion about this matter and a separate school incident followed. (At the conclusion of the meeting, the separate matter was an item the HRC voted 5 in favor of, with 1 abstaining, following up on with a letter to the editor.)

- OLD BUSINESS/HRC Scribe Hire: 4 interviews are schedule for 2/26.
- OLD BUSINESS/City Budget Subcommittee: Jill, Adele, Erick and Pedro were confirmed as having expressed prior interest in serving. A meeting will be scheduled for March 4 at 7pm to start the process, with the actual budget being provided around March 17. Participation the School Budget process also was discussed, with meetings going on now that impact outcomes.
- OLD BUSINESS/Communications Subcommittee: Adele, Margaret, Ravi, Stephanie and Pedro were confirmed as having expressed prior interest in serving. Discussion followed with Margaret seeking HRC members’ phone numbers to provide to media as needed. A meeting will be scheduled for March 8 at 7pm to start the process.
- OLD BUSINESS/Pride Flags Subcommittee: The City formally received the flags from EQMaine. The flag will fly for one month at City facilities. A roll call vote was held to provide a one-time $200 payment to EQ Maine for the flags purchased, with all voting members present approving. It was noted that further work on an educational events is pending.

Reminder: **ALL subcommittees and its members are subject to the same FOAA requirement as the full committee. The final policy from the City on members of the public serving on subcommittees is pending.**
• OTHER: The Police Services Review Working Group final report that went to the Council was discussed. The positive outcomes of the Council supporting the recommended actions of the process were noted.
• OTHER: The need for future agendas to include an item for New Business was noted.
• OTHER: In the future, the Scribe could maintain a separate list of items that come up during meetings that need to be added to future agendas for actual consideration.

• PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

  Brief final reflections followed.

  Colleen moved and Ravi seconded to close the meeting.

(Of note: The meeting was interrupted with a zoom “bomb” at approx. 7:30pm and had to be restarted about five minutes later.)

**Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.**

**NEXT MEETING:** 3/11, 7pm, via Zoom