

Minutes for the 2/7/08 Meeting of the Newington Human Rights Commission:

Present: Jeffrey Cultrera Monica Golec Michael Munroe Phyllis DiCara
Christine Andrews Val Ginn Scott McBride
Ken Freidenberg - Director Newington Department of Human Services

Absent: Tim Manke Ann Cameron

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

The first order of business was the upcoming Memorial Day parade. The following topics were discussed:

Val Ginn stated that she contacted Steve Carragher and he has given the approval for the Human Rights Commission to participate in the Memorial Day parade. He will be sending an information packet to Val.

The Commission came up with the wording for the press release for the Memorial Day Parade. It will read as follows: Share Your Heritage: The Human Rights Commission invites you to choose a country or culture to represent and march with us in Newington's Memorial Day Parade. Sign up now! Contact Jeff Cultrera at (860) 543 -1986 for more information. Date, place, and time TBD.

It was decided that the press release should be included in the following media outlets: Newington Town Crier, Hartford Courant, Newington Town web site, The Rare Reminder, New Britain Herald, Channel 14, Newington Spanish Radio station, the Mayor's talk show on public access television, Newington senior citizens newsletter, various church organizations newsletters, Newington school newsletters. Ken stated that information put in the school newsletters would have to be approved by the Superintendent. It was agreed that the Newington Life Paper would be contacted to see if they would be interested in doing a more in depth article about the Human Rights Commission's involvement in the Memorial Day Parade.

It was agreed that the press release would be sent out to the public twice - in the beginning of April and then again at the beginning of May.

Val Ginn has attempted to contact the Diversity Club at Newington High School to see if they would be interested in participating in the Parade. Val has left several phone messages but has gotten no response yet. Val offered to continue to contact them and will use email in her efforts as well.

Val Ginn reported that she has a resource for the flags of the various countries that will be represented in the Parade. The flags are 4" x 6" and will cost about \$3.50 apiece. A company in Minnesota sells the flags. Once we place the order it would take about a week for the flags to arrive.

Val Ginn reported that the Portuguese Club is very interested in marching in the Parade. The French Club in New Britain was due to vote on 2/9/08 to see if their members would like to march in the parade. Val is still trying to connect with the German/Austrian club in Newington.

In other matters the following was discussed:

It was decided that the Human Rights Banner would have as large a logo and lettering as possible. Val Ginn said that she would look into this. Approximate cost for the sign is \$250.00.

Ken confirmed that he has reserved the dates for the Human Rights Commission's large wooden sign for the town-wide sign program. The dates are in early September. Tim Manke is familiar with this program.

Val Ginn confirmed that the Human Rights Commission has a booth reserved at the Waterfall Festival.

The Commission discussed various different activities that they could sponsor at the Festival. Hiring a performer, interactive arts and crafts, and ethnic food tasting were all discussed as possibilities. A source of performers was identified as the Hartford Charter Oak Cultural Center. Further discussion was tabled until later meetings. Commission members were encouraged to bring ideas for the Festival to the next meeting.

Ken handed out the Newington Human Services monthly report.

The Commission discussed a food bank/toiletries drive. September was identified as a probable time for this event to take place. Wal Mart was identified as a possible merchant to collaborate with on this project. Scott McBride voiced his support to get local businesses involved as well. Scott said that he would contact the Newington Chamber of Commerce to see if they could identify local businesses that might be interested in participating. The Commission agreed to continue to work on this project in future meetings.

Ken stated that he put in a request for the Human Rights Commissions budget to remain at \$1500.00 for the fiscal 2008/2009 year.

The next Commission meeting was agreed to take place on **Tuesday** April 8th at 7:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 pm.

Michael Munroe - Secretary