

## **Minutes for the 9/9/08 meeting of the Newington Human Rights Commission:**

Present: Monica Golec, Michael Munroe, Christine Andrews, Val Ginn  
Tim Manke, Phyllis DiCara, Ken Freidenberg, Scott McBride

Absent: Jeffrey Cultrera, Ann Cameron

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

The first order of business was a discussion about HRC booth at the **Waterfall Festival on 9/27/08:**

Ken Freidenberg brought the games that will be used in the HRC booth at the festival. After the meeting the HRC members agreed to familiarize themselves with the games.

Ken stated that he has the 10' x 10' tent that will be used for the HRC booth. Tim Manke said that some of the Boy Scouts from his troop could help out in setting up the tent at the Festival. Ken will bring the games and the tent to the Festival on 9/27/08.

Phyllis DiCara brought the CD player that will be used at the festival. HRC members agreed that the CD player would be a good addition to the booth. Christine Andrews stated that she will obtain CD'S from the library for use in the booth.

It was agreed that the HRC could use the banner and flags from the Memorial Day Parade in the booth. Jeffrey Cultrera is believed to be in possession of the flags and the banner. Monica Golec said that she would contact Jeff to confirm this.

The following HRC members agreed to volunteer at the booth. Hours for the festival are 10:00 am - 5:00pm:

Michael Munroe - available all day

Christine Andrews - available all day

Phyllis DiCara - available in the morning

Scott McBride - tentatively available in the afternoon

Jeffrey Cultrera - will be contacted to see if he is available

HRC members working in the booth need to bring their own chairs. Michael Munroe will bring two 5 foot folding tables. HRC members should arrive at Market Square between 8:00 am - 9:00 pm for booth set up.

The next order of business was **Programs to consider for 2008 - 09.**

Ken stated that the HRC has \$1500.00 in the budget to use from 7/1/08 to 6/30/09. The following were discussed as possible future HRC programs:

- Getting a speaker in conjunction with the schools.
- Making a donation to the World of Difference Program at NHS. Ken said that he will check on this.
- Putting on a program in conjunction with the Newington Town Library. Monica will check on this.
- Ken stated that he will check with the Newington Town Senior Center for programs that they might need

The HRC identified March 2009 as a possible target date for one of the above programs.

Ken gave a quick update on the **Human Services Department** and distributed the August 2008 report.

Ken stated that the food bank is currently servicing about 106 families per month. Ken said that the Human Services Department is expecting that many families will be in need of fuel assistance this winter. Last year about 550 households applied for fuel assistance.

The next order of business was discussion of the **Food/Toiletries Drive**:

The plan is for collection boxes to be set up at various town businesses during the week of September 29 - October 5, 2008. On October 5th HRC members will stand next to the collection boxes at some of the larger businesses.

Ken will get a fact sheet about what items are needed at the food bank. A list of businesses that are participating in the drive will also be listed on the fact sheet. These fact sheets will be displayed and handed out at the Waterfall festival.

Scott McBride stated that he got a lukewarm response from members of the Chamber of Commerce that might be interested in participating in the drive. Val Ginn said that she had a list of businesses that might be interested in participating. Val will contact these businesses. Monica said that she will contact Jeff to see if he has commitments from any stores that might be interested in participating. HRC members will be updated about participating stores via email.

About 10 bins will need to be obtained or purchased to be put at the participating businesses.

The next HRC meeting was agreed to take place on **Tuesday October 21st at 7:00 pm.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Michael Munroe - Secretary