

TOWN OF IPSWICH | MASSACHUSETTS

Ipswich Human Rights Commission

Tuesday, April 25, 2023: 7:00 – 8:30PM; Ipswich Town Hall; Virtual/ Zoom Meeting

Minutes

1. Call to Order

- Reading/ Acceptance of 4/11/23 Minutes; HL Move to Pass/ CS 2nd, all in favor
- Attendance: S. Schiffer, C. Donahew, J. Duff, H. Leonard, D. Schiano, C. Sweeney
 - Absent: A. Marcos, N. Mazer

2. New Business

- June Term Limits & Open Positions: Will work with M. Gallivan to clarify Town Mgr appointment & Terms
- Regarding Co-Chair rotation team opted to wait until all openings filled, and June term limits/continuation defined

3. Follow Up Topics & Updates from 3/28 Mtg

- Open Windows/Open Doors Book Group Update – CD
 - Schools ahead of town on messaging & activity
 - District project: Poem “I Am...” As an individual identity exercise (Elementary & IMS executing)
 - Idea for IHRC to host a venue for community members to share & connect with the same, ie “Open Mic Night”, or other “workshop” type offer
- Mass Flag Update – CD (notes from SB)
 - R. Pugh requested that for support, members of the IHRC attend the town meeting and offer individual statement in support of the initiative
- Jenny Slew Park – HL (next steps)
 - May 1st Select Board Meeting itemizes a vote on the agenda to assign name to the designated park location
 - Further details re: signage, etc will be decided when/if the vote passes
- Affordable Housing – SS (attend next sched meeting)
 - S. Schiffer to attend Thurs 4/26 meeting & report back next meeting
- As per meeting discussion during 4/11 meeting, HL offered up drafted policy language to advise Town Administration/ Select Board re: Cultural & Diversity displays / observances. Resolution that this will be shared with Asst Town Mgr, M. Gallivan to inquire re: next steps and how IHRC plays a role as the topic moves forward
 - Concerns regarding the pace at which the town might address & resolve the topic, as we’d like to post Pride & Juneteenth flags or messaging through the town – prominently, and possibly on town property

4. Town Manager/ Asst Manager “Ways of Working” Team Talk

- Team determined a few topics to check in w/ M. Gallivan w/ one point of contact – C. Donahew
 1. M. Gallivan as formalized Town Administration liaison for IHRC
 - And cadence of meeting attendance, or monthly touch base w/ chairs
 2. Team Appointments – Town Manager or Select Board?
 - Is there an opportunity for our co-chairs to screen applicants?
 3. Term Limits – How to go about re-applying for June rotation
 4. Open Positions (1 Voting Member/ 1 Alternate) and how/when/who advertises
 5. IHRC advice on town policy regarding cultural displays/ observances & town property

5. Ips HRC Workshop Brainstorm

- As a matter of organizing an IHRC Event Calendar, we’ll review cultural observances, and applicable topics as they make sense to a certain time of the year. Then plot a ‘map’ of relevant & appropriate sessions/ seminars, etc.
 - 2023 Calendar/ Listing: [Cultural & Diversity Observances](#)
- Identify list of “internal” efforts for the team, and “external” efforts where we’d seek lead assistance from community partners (which events will IHRC lead, v advising/ inviting community experts to participate)
- Time dedicated for May 9th IHRC meeting per Co-Chairs approval on agenda

6. Next Meeting Proposed New Business & Follow Up

- Early May Select Board Meeting – recap from those able to attend
- S. Schiffer update on HA attended meeting
- Fall 2023 5K
- IHRC Logo Contest

7. Citizen Query – None at this time

8. Adjourn – 8:27pm CW Motion/ SS 2nd, all in favor