

## Meeting Notes

### Town of Hartford Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion (HCOREI)

#### Hartford Town Hall and Zoom

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

#### In Attendance

- Committee Members: Sara Campbell - Chair, John Hall – Vice-Chair, Pat Autilio – Clerk, Kim Souza, Lannie Collins, Joe Major, Russell North, Ally Tufenkjian, Miriam Wood
- Student Liaison: Molly Armbrust

Community Members: Michelle Boleski, Heidi Duto, Mary Gannon, Mike Morris, Joyce Perkins, Nancy Russell, Doris Villandry

#### Agenda Topic

##### 6:01 PM Call to Order

- Approve Meeting Minutes 2/15 (no Quorum 3/1), **Motion: John, 2nd: Pat, Approved by voice vote, Abstentions: Joe, Russ.**

##### 6:03 PM Acknowledge and welcome community members

##### 6:05 PM Committee Post Election Reorg

- Board Representatives
  - Welcome Lannie Collins
  - Russ: No new representatives appointed by School Board yet. Russ still in place for now.
- New Member Applications
  - Sara will ask Lana to put out request for new community applications to HCOREI
  - On April 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be two open community seats.
  - No new student representative applications pending. (One opening.)
  - HCOREI Application Review Committee will be: Miriam, Pat, Russ
- Leadership Election
  - Nomination for Clerk: Pat Autilio - **Motion: Sara, 2nd: Russ, passed by unanimous voice vote**
  - Nomination for Chair: Sara, **Motion: Joe, 2nd: Russ, passed by voice vote, Abstain: Sara**
    - Will require approval of Select and School Board
  - Nomination for Vice-Chair: **Motion: Pat, 2nd: Miriam, passed by voice vote, Molly: abstain**

##### 6:30 PM General Updates

- Abundant Sun Training Report out Feb. 28 meeting
  - Ally: Selectboard has been going through workshops with AS on DEI Training and organizational development and culture. Had third session to process survey data from town employee, elected officials, and volunteers. Looking at next steps and how to share results.
  - Lannie: Should be able to share the results with HCOREI
  - Kim: Eight municipalities are participating in the training and survey. Another meeting is happening on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup>. Data *will* be shared but it needs interpretation.
  - Ab Sun is willing to present to Hartford department heads.
- Community Safety Review
  - Police and fire chief have provided comments on RFP. The RFP can go out now that the budget has been approved. Money can't be spent until new fiscal year starts in July.
- Ann Reynolds Memoriam

- Discussion about creation of a Hartford student award in Ann’s name. Funds would come from community, not town budget.
  - Kim: The school distributes many individual scholarships every year at awards night and might be willing to manage the financial logistics of a scholarship.
  - Pat will talk with Chris Reynolds about whether family is supportive of the creation of a community-based award.
- Joe: Propose resolution voted on by Selectboard honoring work of Ann Reynolds.
  - Pat will draft a resolution and pass to Selectboard member. Will reach out the Tom DeBalsi for words.

**7:00 PM Charge**

- Selectboard debrief 2/21
  - Some Selectboard members felt weren’t informed sufficiently about proposed charge changes
    - Discussion included:
    - Lannie: It was hard to figure out what the changes in the charge were.
    - Sara: Will make clearer what changes were in the future.
    - Russ: In the future, could review the change in one meeting “first reading” and then vote in the next.
    - Mary Gannon: Seemed in Selectboard meeting, there was not clarity with all members about the language being used.
  - Discussion about expanding charge from focus on racial equity to include “social equity” and encompass other areas.
    - John: May be a good topic for a joint School Board, Selectboard, HCOREI meeting.
- School board debrief 3/8
  - Question raised of whether HCOREI should still report to both boards.
  - [Joe, John]: HCOREI is most effective as an internal town/school committee.
  - Sara: Would like to make more space for school board considerations in future HCOREI meetings
  - Michelle: Select and School boards should meet with HCOREI at the same time, e.g., twice year.
- Charge has been finalized and sent to both boards; should be posted already or soon.

**Motion: move remaining agenda items to April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting: Motion: John, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Miriam**

Agenda items for next time: Policy, Joint school/Selectboard meeting

**6:45 PM Working Group Check-ins – *Not covered***

- Juneteenth
- RHRR
- Education
  - Equity Coordinator updates
- Policy

**7:15 PM New Business – Not covered**

**7:34 PM Adjourn**

Motion: Joe

**HCOREI Members**

Sara Campbell – Chair (through 4/5/2023)  
 John Hall – Vice Chair (through 4/5/2023), Then  
 Molly Armbrust  
 Pat Autilio – Clerk (through 3/7/2024)

Joe Major – (through 5/2/2024)  
 Miriam Wood – (through 5/2/2024)  
 Russell North - School board Rep  
 Vacant seat for School Board

Ally Tufenkjian - Selectboard Rep  
Kim Souza - Selectboard Rep  
Student Liaison: Molly Armbrust  
Student Liaison #2: Vacant