

City of Lambertville
Human Rights Council
Pittore Justice Center
February 13, 2023 ~ 7:00pm
Minutes

MISSION: To promote and protect human rights at the local level. Together city representatives and resident members ensure that Lambertville remains a place of acceptance and love.

Mayor Nowick called the meeting to order at 7:04pm and read the Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act into the record.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Lambert, Bambi Kuhl, Lt. Brown, Scott Elliot, Ricardo Zapada, Kathy-Lynn Kelly, Mayor Nowick

Absent: Scott Elliot

Mayor Nowick began the meeting with the following quote from Eleanor Roosevelt:

“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The December 2022 Minutes were not available for review and are carried to the March 7, 2023 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The Mayor swore in new member Kat Kelly. He then spoke of his gratitude for all the amazing and dedicated work of former HRC members Roni Todd Marino, Bruce Harris, Trina Bardusco, Fatima Rodriquez, Araceli Torres. He welcomed Roxanna Ast and Beverly Mason whose appointments to the HRC would be considered at the next City Council meeting on February 16, 2023. The positions of chairperson, secretary and liaisons were briefly discussed, though no decisions were made.

OLD BUSINESS

Because of the high turnover in January, the council decided it would be best to hold off on reviewing the mission, ordinance amendments, and possible subcommittee structure until the new members have been sworn-in and the group has found its footing. Subcommittees previously proposed for 2023 are: Seniors, Students, Mental Health, Latinx, LGBTQ+, Disabilities, Anti-Discrimination, Media and Marketing. The members wondered if this might be too many subcommittees and this led the group into a wide ranging discussion of events the Council might organize or assist with in 2023:

- Oaxaca Day
- Pride Parade
- Shadfest
- Our Lady of Guadeloupe Procession
- Dios Muertos
- Senior Movie Night at the Hibernia

As well, there was discussion about offering mental health support, establishing a youth group, a sewing group, a drop-in group, and celebrating Juneteenth. There was a consensus among the members that scheduling one event per season would be an appropriate and manageable approach to this year's council work. Bambi Kuhl and Lt. Brown noted the City had hosted a movie night with pizza for residents of the Hibernia apartments in the past and everyone agreed this would be a good start. The Mayor asked Bambi to look at dates in early April. The Mayor asked the council to consider undertaking ways in which the municipal buildings could be made more accessible to those with disabilities.

C O R E S P O N D E N C E

None.

P U B L I C C O M M E N T

The Mayor was pleased to have Roxanna and Beverly share thoughts throughout the meeting. No other public comment.

A D J O U R N M E N T

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.