

City of Lambertville
Human Rights Council
Pittore Justice Center
March 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 7:00pm 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, Roxanna Ast, Ricardo Zapada, Brian Keyes, Mayor Nowick

Absent: Kat Kelly, Beverly Mason

Mayor Nowick began the meeting with the following quote from James Baldwin:

“Words like ‘freedom,’ ‘justice,’ ‘democracy’ are not common concepts; on the contrary, they are rare. It takes enormous and, above all, individual effort to arrive at the respect for other people that these words imply.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bambi Kuhl made a motion to approve the December 2022 minutes; Ricardo Zapata seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Councilwoman Lambert made a motion to approve the February 2023 minutes; Ricardo Zapata seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Nowick swore in new members Roxanna Ast and the SHRS D representative, Brian Keyes. Thank you notes for outgoing members Roni Todd Marino, Trina Bardusco and Bruce Harris were passed around for signatures. The Mayor noted he did not have addresses for the outgoing student members but that he would try to get them and thank them via letters

The positions of chairperson, secretary and liaisons were briefly discussed, though no decisions were made.

Councilwoman Lambert introduced the subject of amendments to Ordinance establishing the Human Rights Council. She noted that no changes were proposed to the Mission and Purpose,

after which she offered some thoughts about streamlining the language generally. The council discussed various points and, in the end, it was decided to propose three changes: use gender neutral pronouns throughout, insert the words “to prevent” into the Mission, and to move the appointment of an LGBTQ+ liaison to the section titled Chairman; Officers. The members briefly discussed finding one more member for the council. Scott asked whether we might consider someone from the business community. The Mayor mentioned that he might ask the Director of Senior Services if she would be interested.

Bambi reached out to Day at the Hibernia for scheduling an April movie night, but has not heard back. She will follow up again.

Upcoming events were discussed. The council would like to have a float in the Pride parade on May 20, 2023. Bambi would reach out to Ed Dragan to see if we could use his car for our float. Also, the idea of a summer picnic at Cavallo Park was raised. Scott noted that July is the anniversary for the signing of the ADA and that 20% of the population has a disability.

Councilwoman Lambert asked about ways in the City could come into full ADA compliance with the audio-visual equipment in the Justice Center. Scott said he’d look into it as we should be barrier free.

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

None

A D J O U R N M E N T

The meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.