

Franklin Township Human Relations Commission

Minutes of July 27, 2023

Present: Gary Rosenthal, Edna Arguello Hitchner, John Tibbs, Linda Williams Montgomery, E Poustchi, Stan Rozario, Shubhenda Singh, Damianti Chivikula, Pete Clark, Councilman Ambarasan. Nora Catiis

Excused: Alex Kharazi, Quinlan Paris

Absent: John Samba

Police Officer: Marcelo Dos Reis

Guests: Michele Petersen, Beverly Lawson

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rosenthal at 7:06 PM

Minutes of June 28, 2023 approved

Police Report: Officer Dos Reis reported on National Night Out on August 1st: Food Distribution project: Back Pack Donation Project: Citizens Academy: Also Township Police (FTPD) is now reporting on Facebook. Due to continued investigation there could not be full report on the loss of a Township child in a bus tragedy.

Guest Report:

Commissioner Clark made the following presentation. A summary of the presentation follows. Firstly he gave a brief review of his background with diversity in education for forty years including but not limited to the High School Principal in North Brunswick. Some suggestions for the Commissioners to review and connect with our schools to keep updated with the calendar of events with the assistance of our Junior Commissioners so we can plan our schedule and to participate with our banner (see website) to hang in front of our table when attending events with creating a trifold on FTHRC. Can we ask for assistance via the Township Budget (Mayor and Council to review ? Discussion of a "Unity Walk" held be East Brunswick with more details. Further comments on Diversity Night Festival. Possible guest speaker from the NJ Human Relations Commission next fall.

Vice Chairman Edna reported on a revised resolution which we have been requested to approve (We, the Franklin Township Human Relations Commission , as a body concerned about the future of the Township and the elimination of empty storefronts ask the Council to work toward

an efficient and timely resolution to the future of the empty former K Mart storefront in the Rutgers Plaza Shopping Center. In addition we ask for and consideration of, and commitment to the need for affordable housing for Township residents). A motion was passed unanimously to present this to the Township Council.

Other Business:

Chairman Rosenthal reported that he is still working on the appointment of a new Junior Commissioner to replace Halen Abera.

Council Liaison Ram reported on a Franklin baseball team for the first time going to a World Series . They earned a spot in the 2023 Babe Ruth World Series. Going to Stafford VA competing with the Regional Champions from across the country including teams from Aruba, Australia and Mexico. A fund raiser campaign has begun.

Next meeting on August 23rd.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectively Submitted

Gary Rosenthal acting as Secretary