

**Freehold Human Relations Advisory Committee (HRAC) Meeting**  
February 1, 2024

In attendance: Carrie Conger, Jenny Conger, Councilman Adam Reich, Christine Gregory, Margaret Rogers, Wanda Richards-Clarke, Joanna Connelly (by phone); Not in attendance: Faith Edwards, Wagner Menendez, Sgt. Santana, Claire Morales, Rev. Ron Sparks, Elisha Carter; Visiting community members: Glorymel and Kymora.

Meeting called to order 6:01pm

**Walking Tour** – Jenny reported that the estimated completion of construction at the library remains late-March, early April. Adam reported that Kevin Coyne feels it would be best to have the walk in the spring to ensure we can utilize and celebrate the library, in addition to having better likelihood of nicer weather. Adam indicated that the quotes for the trolley are cost-prohibitive, that he is looking into the senior bus and other options that may be available. Estimated route include possible start at Court Steet Tour, then moving towards Main Street with parking in Market Yard lot, allowing for easy access to your car after the final stop at the library.

**Pen-Pal Update** – Carrie reported that Claire has been in touch with Superintendent Michael who was very interested in partnering with the committee to organize the program, but requested that we wait until the beginning of the next school year to initiate. Carrie indicated she would be working with her on a separate project for another committee and would be available to answer any questions she may have. Margaret suggested a project similar to something she saw online, which included a group on young people who partnered up with seniors to interview them and learn more about their lives, then doing a project on that person. The committee was interested in this as a tie-in to the pen-pal program. More information will be discussed in future months.

**Befriend-A-Neighbor** – Christine reported she has a scheduled phone call tomorrow with Kathy, a contact in Matawan, to talk logistics related to sending cards/flowers to people in the community. Adam suggested purchasing seed packets to give away at events such as the walking tour, encouraging “planting seeds of friendship.” Jenny reported that the Library has asked HRAC to partner with them on an event on March 20<sup>th</sup> called “Won’t You Be My Neighbor”, an event to spread love and kindness in honor of Mr. Rogers (of “Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood”). The event encourages neighbors to find creative ways to decorate their home and yard and find ways to help our neighbors. All were interested in participating. Jenny will collaborate with Kathy Mulholland and update the committee. Joanna asked if Freehold Borough had a “welcoming committee” that provided materials to new residents. Carrie and Adam confirmed that there is nothing provided by the Borough, but that it might be a good idea to check in with local realtors to add HRAC information to their info packets. Wanda suggested a “meet and greet” for new residents twice a year to connect new residents to local activities and committees, which all members thought would be a good idea, hoping to include the councilmembers and mayor.

**Hometown Heroes** – Carrie suggested partnering with the new Hometown Heroes committee to promote bios of the individuals selected to be on the banners that will be hung in town as part of the US Semiquincentennial (250<sup>th</sup> in 2026) and the Borough Sesquicentennial Memorial Day Parade (150<sup>th</sup> in 2024). Committee was in favor.

**HRAC Committee Member Spotlight** – Jenny suggested doing a weekly/bi-weekly spotlight on HRAC committee members on the Facebook page in order to allow for more people in the community to see behind the logo and know more about the people who are volunteering. Adam suggested taking photos next to the HRAC banner at the next meeting and then also doing a group photo. All committee members agreed and were tasked with writing a short bio by next month.

**Equity Campaign Update** – Margaret reported that Court Street School will be having a Roaring 20's party on May 11th. She is selling tickets at \$50. She also reported that the Juneteenth Gala was moved to June 23, 2024 to avoid conflict with Father's Day.

**Recruitment** – Kymora Clarke and Glorymel Roldan were guests at the meeting, indicating that they both held interest in joining the committee. Both were welcomed by the members and encouraged them to complete the online interest form to move forward with formal appointment to join. Margaret reported that she has two other people who might be interested and may join the meeting next month.

**Approval of Minutes** – December 2023 and January 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**Next HRAC meeting** is March 7, 2024. Meeting adjourned 6:48pm.