

Community Relations Board (CRB) Minutes

Call to Order: 6:15pm

In attendance (virtual meeting): Leanne Foster, Commission Liaison, Laura Lilley (Public Information Officer, Catherine Schilken, Chair, Marissa Escajeda, Pam Hansen, Margaret Izzo, Co-chair, Jari Jariwala, Leah Lahoda, Rafay Khan, Jr., Mark Trumbull

Absent: None

Citizen's comments: None

May 2021 Minutes approved.

Meeting Topics

Reports

Commissioners:

- Commissioners will be reviewing expanding Board and Commission student liaisons. The CRB would be eager to have Rafay to continue as Board liaison, if he is interested.
- Commissioners will be taking up applications for student liaisons to expanded list of boards and DEI initiative.
- A "Friends of Global Studies" initiative within the community has been initiated. Leeann is a part of this effort and is taking names of people who may be interested in learning more.

PIO

- Juneteenth celebration will be occurring this month with an article in the June issue of Magazine, library promoting books, and social media.
- Library second live garden tour will be June 29th. Go to website for more information.
- Pride Month was recognized with remarks by Commissioner Vice President Flynn at the Jun 8 Commissioners meeting. Further support will be found in social media and library has suggested readings regarding the LGBTQ+ movement.
- Construction uptown will begin 7/7 and continue through the end of the year.
- A microsite on Covid virus information regarding masking and opening up is on the Mt Lebanon website.
- In-person meetings will resume in September. Tech is working on developing a virtual capability for those who cannot attend in person.

High School

- School DEI task force is conducting a survey to better understand the status of diversity, equity and inclusion in our schools.
- The Social Justice group at the High School is winding down for the year. Looking forward to taking more action post covid during the next school year.
- Marissa will be involved with the HS DEI Task Force.
- Rafay will encourage students to consider student Commissioner and Board positions.

DEI

- Team 1 (Community Awareness and Community Building): Presenting proposals to Commissioners 6/9, following the CRB meeting.
- Team 2 (Diversity in Boards and Hiring):
 - Team will be reaching out to organizations in the community.
 - A team social event is thought to be helpful.
- Team 3 (Police Engagement):
 - Four groups: Police reporting, Recruiting / Hiring, Police data and transparency, other.
 - Groups meet on their own. Full team meets fourth Monday of the month at 5pm.
 - Engaging in community conversations to learn how residents experienced law enforcement in Mt Lebanon.
 - Full involvement and communication continue to be a challenge. Some members are considering stepping back.
- Team 4 (Events and Incident Response Protocol):
 - Updating Commissioners on 6/10.
 - Engaging outside groups on the questions of intentional hate, bias and discrimination.
 - As we begin to plan events, suggested to involve schools, faculty, administration and PTSA.
- It was suggested that we may want to maintain a record of contacts with outside organizations. Margaret advised that she has a spreadsheet for this and will share it.

Citizen Service Award: A resident has been selected and notified. We will be announcing this soon.

The Commission is considering an initiative for next year focused on environment and sustainability.

Adjourned: 7:05pm