

Glastonbury Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting – June 6, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Present: John Glezen, Nick Daukas, Patricia Darling, David Peniston, Virginia Roscoe

Staff: Durlene Mikkelson, Sherri Tanguay

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the April 4, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously as submitted with no exceptions.

Affirmative Action & Recruitment Update – Sherri Tanguay:

- Sherri presented the 2017-2018 Affirmative Action Plan for review by the Commission;
- Sherri defined the various EEO categories the plan must differentiate as required by law;
- The members discussed the plan, and approved it unanimously;
- Sherri will present the plan to the Town Council for their approval;
- Sherri went through the 2016-2017 Recruitment Report for the Commission;
- She discussed the challenges to recruit Police Officers, and how she is implementing strategies to increase a diverse slate of candidates for the department to source from;
- Sherri shared that the Police Chief recruitment is moving along and is in the final phases; and
- Most openings continue to be from retirements.

Housing Report – Virginia Roscoe:

- Ginny provided updates to the report she submitted at the April Commission meeting. One additional item was that work being conducted at the Herbert T. Clarke House. The units will be updated.

Human Services Department Report – Durlene Mikkelson: presented the report to the Commission. Highlights:

- Submitted renewal application for State Matching Grant for Dial-A-Ride funding. (\$52,800.)

- Ordered a new bus which will be a Hybrid (Electric/Gas) vehicle at a cost of \$89,000. The State Department of Transportation 5310 grant will pay \$52,400 of that cost. The vehicle should be received in late summer/early fall.
- Held successful intergenerational volunteer Recognition Dinner on May 8th. Over 150 volunteers attended, all staff and Richard Johnson gave a speech.
- We completed our Senior Center accreditation in a few weeks. The time-line has been over 1 ½ years working on the various tasks and documentation. The accreditation is good for five years.
- Mother's Day/Father's Day program was held on May 10. A total of \$28,000 worth of gifts was donated by the community.
- Glastonbury School Bus and Van drivers held a "Stuff a Bus" event on May 17th. Over 1700 pounds of food and cash donations were collected for the Foodbank. Approximately 50 households used the foodbank this month.
- There were many first time applicants this year for the State and Town property relief.
- Renter Rebate applications are being taken through September. Workers take applications in the office; make both home visits and senior housing.
- In May, twelve households were assisted by the Fuel Bank with a total of \$4,544.
- The Peter Pan Players completed their spring tour of Disney's Cinderella musical. The 15 youth in grades 7 through 12 performed for every elementary school in town including GEHMS (Glastonbury-East Hartford Magnet School), as well as the senior center and the B.P. Learned Mission in New London.
- YSAG (Youth Service Action Group) is wrapping up another successful year of assisting the community through volunteerism and collaboration, having worked with the Friends of Welles Turner Library, Glastonbury Garden Club, Glastonbury Social Services, River Runners, Shriners Hospital, Protectors of Animals, Key Club, Hartwell Soccer, Glastonbury Town Center Initiative and Gillmor Manor.
- The Wednesday ACE program, which partners adults and GHS mentors with elementary age residents of the Welles Village Housing Authority just wrapped up a fun and adventurous year having taken many enriching fieldtrips including: The CT River Museum in Essex, Safari Mini Gulf, Bounce town, Rose's Farm, Robb's Farm, Pumpkin Town USA, Gillette's Castle, Jessica's Garden, Bowling, Nomads, Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry, Riverfront Park, and Rave Cinemas.
- On May 31, a town wide Opioid presentation was held at the RCC. Unfortunately, this event was not as well attended as was hoped.
- Seniors at the RCC and Clark House were given information by our prevention staff member educating seniors on medication safety.
- Children from Smith Middle School made sandwiches and served at a soup kitchen. YAC presented to students and their parents at Suffield Middle School

on the dangers of marijuana. They presented in Colchester "8 things the alcohol industry does not want people to know".

John Glezen

John spoke about the event on May 11 at the Riverfront Community Center "The Muslim Ban: An Exchange of the Underlying Factual, Legal, Religious, Humanitarian, Policy and Economic Considerations". The following were highlights:

- Very well attended;
- A Blue Ribbon Panel of speakers were present;
- The discussions covered many areas and effects of the ban;
- Immigration information from an IRIS (Integrated Refuge & Immigrant Services) representative including facts and statistics; and
- Members of two Syrian families, sponsored by local churches, spoke discussing their situations and how they are extremely grateful for the opportunity to come to the United States.

Patty Darling

Patty discussed her experience attending the "Here to Stay" rally at the end of April.

Highlights:

- Sponsored by the SEIU Union;
- Present were union members, activists, politicians;
- Primarily offered support of immigration and labor;
- Not very well organized, hard to hear the speakers as the sound system did not work well;
- Some entertainment, drumming, dancing, etc.; and
- An illegal immigrant spoke about his current situation.

Patty also shared with the Commission that there is a new activist group in town – Truth in Action in Love and Kindness (TALK). TALK may be sponsoring an immigration event in the future.

New Business: No new business was introduced.

Next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 6 PM at the Riverfront Community Center conference room.

Adjournment: With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Daukas