

Gloucester Human Rights Commission  
Minutes  
March 22, 2021

Call to Order

Hannah Kimberley called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM and stated that the meeting is recorded by audio and video in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of this law and banning gatherings of more than 25 people. It is being conducted by remote participation with all votes being taken by roll call vote. Instructions for remote participation were provided.

Roll Call

Present: Sarah Mitchell Peck; Toni Borge; Maiuzia Alves;  
Nichole Richone Schoel; Jennifer Beloff; Paul Wasserman;  
Hannah Kimberley  
Absent: None

Also Present: Councilor Jen Holmgren, liaison to the City Council; Assistant General Council Krisna Basnu and Human Resources Director Holly Dougwillo, city staff liaisons; guest Miranda Aisling, Cape Ann Museum; and two members of the public, Hannah Krieger and Michael LaMarsh.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Paul Wasserman and seconded by Hannah Kimberley the Minutes of February 22, 2021 were approved by roll call vote.

### Guest Miranda Aisling from the Cape Ann Museum

provided the Commission with an overview of the Museum's virtual programming throughout this pandemic year. Now open to the public on a limited basis, the Museum has offered a wide variety of remote lectures and presentations on areas of mutual concern including Black History; African American Women in Essex County; Women's History Month and others. There is great interest in historical analysis of marginalized communities. With plans for Pride Month, they continue to look toward increasing partnerships with indigenous populations of Essex County. Commission members appreciated the Museum's proactive programming and acknowledged the importance of their recent homage to victims of Covid.

### Translation Services

A proposal for a Pilot Plan to obtain the use of assistive interpretation equipment (memo of March 22, 2021) was approved by roll call vote. Hannah Kimberley will submit the proposal to the Mayor with copies to Holly Dougwillow and Krisna Basu.

### Commission Intake Form

Attorney Basu reviewed the Commission's Powers and Duties as outlined in the revised ordinance establishing the

Commission. Language that included hearing individual complaints was removed and thus needs clarification. Current activities include “enlisting individuals and community-based groups in educational programs and campaigns to increase mutual self-respect, harmonious inter group relation.” With regard to individuals the Commission would assist by “informing them of the local, commonwealth and federal agencies available to address their grievances.”

Commissioner Peck: other HRC’s also refer out. Is there a medium between an “intake” form and the activities in the ordinance.

Commissioner Borge raised the importance of issuing statements of support, for example with regard to recent Asian American and Pacific Islander racist attacks in the country, and the possibility of tracking hate crimes.

Commissioner Wasserman offered to assist with review of ordinance language.

#### Role Modeling of Elected Officials

Councilor Holmgren requested that members review a statement issued some years ago by the City Council with regard to civility

#### Legal Representation for Low Income Residents

Commissioner Alves provide extensive information regarding this need in the community as well as some of the resources

that do exist but may be difficult for people to access. She suggests that the Commission include more detailed information to help low income people navigate and identify the pro bono resources that exist to help, for example Northeast Legal Aid, HAWC, ACTION INC. (for housing) and others.

### Public Comment

Hannah Krieger and Michael LaMarsh spoke about ensuring that the diversity of Gloucester be featured in community activities such as Gloucester 400.

Councilor Holmgren added that there is a pending resolution to increase the number of HRC members to reach out to people of color and the LGBTQ communities.

Next HRC Meeting is April 26. Jennifer Beloff and Hannah Kimberley will be “backup” Zoom hosts for future meetings.

Commissioner Wasserman moved and Kimberley seconded to adjourn meeting at 5:28 PM and this was approved by roll call vote.

Submitted

Paul Wasserman

