

PRINCETON CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 24th, 7:00 PM



Commissioner Attendees: Nick Di Domizio, Walter Bliss, Lina Genovesi, Arifa Khandwalla, Lew Maltby, Anastasia Mann, Surinder Sharma, Fern Spruill

Council Liaison Attendance: Council Liaison Fraga

Absent: Tommy Parker, Howard Levy

Members of the Public: Wilma Solomon, Maria Cruz, Bob Durkee, Larry Spruill, Joanne Parker, Ronnie Ragen, Sally

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.
- II. Commissioners Genovesi and Khandwalla introduced themselves to the commission.
- III. Commissioner Spruill was nominated for Char by Commissioner Bliss. Seconded by Commissioner Mann. Commissioner Spruill was voted in unanimously as chair.
- IV. Commissioner DiDomizio was nominated for Vice Char by Commissioner Mann. Seconded by Commissioner Spruill. Commissioner DiDomizio was voted in unanimously as Vice Chair.
- V. No Secretary was voted upon. Council Liaison Fraga asked Commissioner DiDomizio to take notes for the meeting. If no commissioner wants to be secretary, then the responsibility would rotate.
- VI. December Minutes were approved unanimously.
- VII. The commissioners decided to keep the meeting schedule to the 4th Tuesday, but change the start time to 7 PM.
- VIII. Council Liaison Report
 - a. Council received a presentation on council priorities. Council Liaison Fraga will share with the commission.
 - b. Council is scheduling a retreat.
 - c. CRC should also consider starting to plan a retreat. Commissioner Sharma can draft an email to organize.
 - d. The Resolution condemning Antisemitism was received well and approved unanimously by voice vote. Council Liaison Fraga will reach out to the clerk to get a copy put on the website.
 - e. The developer has indicated that he is willing to assist people who would be displaced by a development in town in the Witherspoon-Jackson neighborhood.
- IX. Committee Reports
 - a. **Welcome to Princeton signs**
 - i. Council Liaison Fraga said each council member is able to report on what BCCs are working on. A blurb was requested to let Council Liaison Fraga know what the CRC is considering. It would be up to Council to direct the staff. The CRC should provide council a blurb

at any time they want to make an announcement. The next meeting is feb 13. Vice Chair DiDomizio asked for support to help with the initiative. Chair Spruill volunteered.

- ii. **Recent Anti-Muslim Intimidation/Bias Incident:** Commissioner DiDomizio asked for support pulling together a group to begin planning the event. Commissioners Khandwalla, Sharma and Maltby volunteered to assist. Commissioner Maltby suggested reaching out to the clergy group. Commissioner Sharma can reach out to contacts from the Sikh community.

- X. Chair Report
 - a. No Chair report
- XI. Vice Chair Report
 - a. No Vice Chair report
- XII. Commissioner Comments
 - a. Council Liaison Fraga reached out to the Chief of Police to clarify what can be done in reports. She suggested hosting a public forum. Commissioner Maltby said he and Commissioner Bliss will coordinate with Chair Spruill to set a meeting with the chief of police. Council Liaison Fraga recommended working out the details as a small group. The chief agreed to make himself available and Council Liaison Fraga will be there. Commissioner Maltby said Chair Spruill should set up this conversation.
- XIII. Public Comments
 - a. Wilma Solomon asked if making a notice will trigger action on council, or if we need to ask for specific action to be taken. Council Liaison Fraga anticipates the staff will look into the pricing and cost and let council know.
 - b. Bob Durkee spoke to the Welcome to Princeton signs reform. He said he did some modest updating to his statement, and he will send to Vice Chair DiDomizio.
 - c. Maria Cruz said she looks forward to working with the council and understanding the process for the changing of the Welcome signs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

The next meeting of the CRC will be on Tuesday, February 28th, 2023 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Di Domizio, Vice Chair