

ADOPTED

City of Keene
New Hampshire

COLLEGE CITY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 26, 2018

4:00 PM

Room 309, KSC

Members Present:

Bart Sapeta, Co-Chair, City Councilor
Phil Jones, City Councilor
Bettina Chadbourne, City Councilor
Robin Picard
Marcia Kayser
Kelly Ricaurte
Kim Schmidl-Gagne
Dottie Morris
Kim Schmidl-Gagne

Staff Present:

Tara Kessler, Planner

Others Present:

Davis Bernstein
Victoria Bergstrom

Members Not Present:

Paula Jessup
Chris Cusack
Darryl Masterson, Co-Chair
Dick Berry
Bryanna Weigl

1) **Call to Order**

Co-Chair Sapeta called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM. Co-Chair Sapeta announced that Ms. Schmidl-Gagne is now a member of the CCC and that Mr. Jarvis is no longer a member. In addition, Ms. Kessler noted there are two alternate spots in the Commission that need to be filled.

Roll call was conducted with introductions. Guests at the meeting were KSC students Davis Bernstein and Victoria Bergstrom.

2.) **Approval of Minutes – November 27, 2017**

Councilor Chadbourne noted a correction to the minutes of November 27, 2017 on page 1, President Treadwell should be added to the Others Present List and Ms. Schmidl-Gagne should be removed from the Members Present List. In addition, Co-Chair Sapeta noted that Mayor Lane should be added to the Others Present List.

Ms. Picard noted on page 6, last paragraph, the word paraphernalia is misspelled.

Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of November 27, 2017 as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chadbourne, which carried unanimously.

3) **Subcommittee Updates:**

a) **Neighborhood Revitalization**

Co-Chair Sapeta reported the subcommittee held a meeting in January to review their report. He stated there have a lot of comments received and these comments will be included in the report. Ms. Ricaurte asked what the timeframe was for completion of the full report. Co-Chair Sapeta replied the Inclusiveness & Diversity Report would be reviewed at today's meeting and if the Commission felt comfortable there would be a vote on approval. He explained the goal is to have the Neighborhood Revitalization report ready for review at the next CCC meeting and then vote on approval at that meeting. Once the Committee approves both drafts, the report will then be submitted to Mayor Lane and President Treadwell for their review. Co-Chair Sapeta stated that he hoped the final draft would be ready in April for release to the public.

b) **Inclusiveness & Diversity**

Ms. Kayser reported that the subcommittee met on January 8, 2018 and held a very productive meeting. She reported that she invited Vicky Pittman, the Head of Education at The Colonial Theatre, to join the group as well as Jenna Carroll, from the Historical Society. Ms. Kayser reported that Ms. Pittman was planning a showing of *Neither Wolf nor Dog* on October 7, 2018 with possible coordination of other events with the Historical Society. She said that it is hoped that descendants from the Keene Abenaki family would participate in this event.

Ms. Kayser reported that *Lost Boundaries* is another movie that will be shown in January 2019 at The Colonial Theatre.

In addition, Ms. Kayser reported that Ms. Pittman is also scheduling the international performers, *The Trocks*, in March 2019. She stated that these performers are featured in a recently released documentary called, *'Rebels on Pointe'*, the history of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, the all-male, professional, humorous, drag ballet company that was founded over 40 years ago on the heels of New York's Stonewall riots.

She continued reporting that the subcommittee discussed hosting "*Ask a _____*" program, possibly in the spring and the subcommittee will brainstorm more at their next meeting.

In January, Ms. Morris and Ann Driscoll from Antioch held a program called "*Unpacking Institutional Racism*". She explained this is a 4-evening workshop that would be offered again in March and is a collaboration of AUNE, KSC, and The Colonial Theatre. It is recommended that people sign up in advance to insure there are enough materials.

Ms. Kayser reported that AUNE Dance Movement Therapy Program sponsored an International Symposium in February called, *One Billion Rising: Women and Girls Experiencing Sexual Violence* that include the film, "Little Stones". In addition, there was a panel that discussed domestic and sexual violence after the film.

Also on February 14th the movie "*Jabber*", that is about an American Muslim girl who wears a hajib, was shown at The Colonial Theatre for a high school audience.

Ms. Kayser reported that in collaboration with AUNE, Brattleboro's ACT for Social Justice offers their next Cross Class Dialogue Circle at the Rockingham Public Library in Bellows Falls, VT, on Saturdays, March 17th and 31st, and April 7th, from 9AM – 3PM.

Ms. Kayser stated that Steve Fortier is making a valuable contribution to the KSC community in compiling a calendar of events and he will talk to the Keene Chamber of Commerce's Phil Suter about identifying a person from the City who will help contribute and coordinate the community events.

The subcommittee also discussed doing a series of events on racial justice similar to what is happening over in the Durham area that involves the whole community in racial justice. She noted that these areas had support from the NH Humanities Council.

Ms. Kayser reported the Horatio Colony Museum is planning some in depth events on Native Americans and the title of their program is called, "*Two Sides of the Coin*". She said the subcommittee would be coordinating with the Horatio Colony Museum to help promote these events.

Ms. Kayser reported that she will contact The Keene Sentinel to find out how to be listed in the ELF weekly insert that contains a calendar of community events in the area. She wanted to see if all of these local events could be listed in a section titled, "Community Education".

Ms. Kayser asked the Commission if there is a better way to disseminate the events the subcommittee was trying to promote. Ms. Kessler referenced the success of the Monadnock Arts Alive calendar. She explained this calendar centralized all of the arts and cultural events in the area.

Ms. Bergstrom suggested placing events on social media because college students look for information on events through social media. Co-Chair Sapeta suggested Ms. Kayser contact ELF to research adding these events and report what she learns back to the Commission.

Councilor Jones stated that the reason Mayor Lane brought up inclusiveness was because there were some events that occurred with minority students from KSC and AUNE. He asked the Commission if there is any to focus more on these issues that have occurred. Ms. Morris replied that once the recommendations are put forth and reviewed by President Treadwell and Mayor Lane the CCC could then start acting on these recommendations.

4.) **Review and Approval of Inclusiveness & Diversity Report**

Co-Chair Sapeta asked the CCC to review "Building an Inclusive Community" and then vote on approving the content if the Commission is ready. Once the report is approved it will be forwarded to President Treadwell and Mayor for their review.

The following is a list of recommended edits.

1. Under Short Term (0-6 months), third bullet, remove spring 2018.
2. The website link, *Justice for All*, should be changed to the website *justiceforallvt.org*.
3. At the beginning of the appendix, add an introduction that states, "the list below is a sample of resources available in the area".
4. Under the appendix, remove the descriptions and categorize the subjects based on the type of organization. Ms. Morris stated that she would fix all the links along with Ms. Ricaurte. Ms. Kessler will email an updated list to Ms. Morris and Ms. Ricaurte with the additions of the UUC Church, Monadnock Restorative Alliance, and the Jewish

Synagogue. In addition, Ms. Bergstrom suggested adding CRU, which is a student organization that gives students a safe place to talk about religion.

The CCC decided to postpone voting on approval of the draft report until all of the changes have been corrected.

5.) Review of Commission Charge, Functions, & Staff

Ms. Kessler stated that the City Manager is continuing the effort to look at the Commissions and to think about staff roles and how to best suit staff in supporting Commissions. She referred the CCC to the Commission Charge that was adopted in 2016. Ms. Kessler said that she wanted to check-in with the Commission to review and discuss this charge with respect to the work of the Commission in the past year and moving forward into this calendar year.

Councilor Chadbourne suggested the CCC consider changing the time of the meeting in order to have a higher attendance at the meetings.

Ms. Picard recommended having an email prior to the meeting when discussing items of this nature ahead of time in order to be more prepared and to be more intentional. In addition, she stated that she is still trying to figure out how the Commission is supposed to follow-up on certain recommendations of the Commission. She wondered if the CCC was supposed to be more instrumental in seeing things through.

Councilor Jones said that the original reason for the CCC was to have more communication and he thinks that a lot of that is still not happening. He referred to a workshop that was held with the Revitalization of Downtown Committee and stated that it is still unknown if KSC is going to build a health center in downtown. In addition, he referenced the flood project on Ralston Street and Winchester Street and asked if the KSC was even aware of the project or if they wanted to be involved. Councilor Jones noted that there needs to be more communication.

The CCC made the decision to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.

8.) Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 4:00 PM in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the City Hall.

9.) Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Co-Chair Sapeta adjourned the meeting at 5:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jennifer Clark, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by,
Tara Kessler, Planner