

From: Rick Bazzano October 8, 2008 11:53:04 AM
Subject: Human Relations Commission Minutes 10/02/2008
To: SimsburyCT_HumanRels
Cc:

Minutes of Human Relations Commission
October 2, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.

Present were: Eva Hausman, Mickey Lecours-Beck and Susan Ersinghaus.

The minutes for the September 4th 2008 were read and approved.

The discussion then started concerning the research done since the prior meeting into resources available to utilize in fostering mutual understanding and respect in town. It was discovered that all three members had been referred to by various professionals to the same website: Teaching Tolerance. org, run by the Southern Poverty Law Center. The commission reviewed the materials available at no cost for download or order (which only requires postage) to determine if they would be valuable and appropriate. It was determined that 101 Tools For Tolerance would be an excellent pamphlet which could be made available to residents at many venues such as the Senior Center, Town Hall, Fire Department, Police Department, Health Department as well as fairs such as Septemberfest, Family Day and Health Fairs. It was also suggested that inquiries might be made as to whether the diversity program at the High School already uses this material or might want them as well. It was decided that Ms. Lecours-Beck would make an initial order of 1000 brochures. Also explored was a slogan that Ms. Ersinghaus had written for the idea of a bookmark: "Make a difference in Simsbury: look past your differences and find common ground." As the bookmarks are not longer necessary with the tolerance tools being ordered, the commission decided to research whether a stamp with the phrase and the Simsbury Human Relations Commission forming a circle could be made to stamp the materials once received before distribution. Ms. Ersinghaus agreed to try and design something and get it priced.

Next venues to promote the pamphlets were discussed, specifically Mickey's upcoming SCTV show and perhaps a special presentation about tolerance and diversity at the Senior Center which could include access and instruction

to web based Implicit Bias Tests for those interested. Ms. Hausman will also be looking at whether there is still a Diversity Club at the High School that might want to receive and distribute the pamphlets or join in a Senior Center presentation.

New Business was then addressed. First Selectman Mary Glassman had forwarded information on the Town sponsoring a conversation on the impact of Sheff vs. O'Neill and integration and the commission offers its full support to her as we believe integration to be vital to the community's well-being.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:10.