

CITY OF NORWALK
FAIR HOUSING ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 18, 2024

ATTENDANCE: Rev. Richard Clarke, Joe Mann, Alexandria Solano
Via telephone conference call: Jalin Sead, Daisy Franklin, Carol Frank

STAFF: Attorney Margaret Suib, Fair Housing Offer

Chairman. Sead asked Rev. Clarke to Chair the meeting for ease in following the agenda.

Rev. Clarke called the order for the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present from the public to comment at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

** MR. MANN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2024
MEETING AS SUBMITTED.
** REV. CLARKE SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Fair Housing Month Luncheon - April 8, 2024

Atty. Suib reported that the event is scheduled for April 8 at the City Hall Community Room at 12:00 noon. She added that the room is booked from 11:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m. to cover set up at 11:00, then lunch, then panel discussion, then clean up. Lunch will be simple sandwiches, wraps, and beverages.

She asked for email addresses for invitation responses (40 max.) for panelists and noted that speakers will include the following:

Michael Sanatora from the CT State Department of Housing
Erin Boggs with on-Profit Open Community Alliance.
Senator Bob Duff; Adam Bovilsky, Norwalk Housing Authority
A third person from the Fair Housing Authority

She added that the ‘fair-share plan’ method did not pass the legislature, but it is gaining momentum, and should make for a robust discussion.

She added that the Fair Housing banner will be hung in the atrium at Cit Hall for the month of April.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION REGARDING FY 2024-25 BUDGET MEETING WITH BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION (03.13.2024)

Atty. Suib reported it was a quick meeting with discussion only about money and justification for increases, which was for fringe benefits, taxes, salary increases—no operational increases as those expenses are flat over last year.

There was discussion on the process for searching for the new Fair Housing Officer and the BET Chair Ann Yang asked if the funding for the position can be cut from the budget for one half of the year. Mr. Sead mentioned he had reached out to Mayor Rilling about the need to keep the funding for the position, as if it is cut, it is then hard to put back in the budget what is needed for full salary of replacement of the position. He added that he will reach out again to the Mayor.

- MR. MANN MOVED TO REACH OUT TO MAYOR RILLING WITH A FOLLOW-UP REMINDER ABOUT MAINTAINING THE BUDGETED POSITION.
- MS. SOLANO SECONDED THE MOTION.
- MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Atty. Suib mentioned that the process last time for hiring of the position was advertised by the Redevelopment Agency that screened resumes then cut down the eligible candidates to three for interviews to be done by the Fair Housing Authority.

Atty. Suib noted that the position is for the City of Norwalk but comes under the Redevelopment Agency, which does offer budgeted protection, but it is a court required position for the City.

More information will be provided at next month's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

** MR. MANN MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MS. SOLANO SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Telesco Secretarial Service