

Princeton Human Services Commission Minutes

Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 12th, 2017

Monument Hall-East Meeting Rooms

One Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540

Present

Board Members:

Ross Wishnick, Chair
John Heilner
Heather Howard, Council
Liaison
Omar Nishtar
Larry Spruill
Matthew Trujillo

Staff:

Elisa Neira, MSW
Ben Strauss

Guests:

Phillip Curran, Princeton
Packet

Absent

Board Members:

Veronica Olivares-Weber,
Vice Chair
John Anagbo
Janet Estes
Anastasia Mann

Minutes submitted by Ben Strauss, Recording Secretary

I. Call to order

At 7:04 pm, Chair Wishnick calls the meeting of the Human Services Commission to order:
“This is to affirm that the regularly scheduled meeting of the Princeton Human Services Commission has been duly notified and is being conducted in compliance with all provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.”

II. Public Comments / Guests

The one member of the public does not wish to comment.

III. Local Assistance Board

Chair Wishnick notes that the members of the committee also meet as the Local Assistance Board as part of this meeting. The committee did not originally have this item on the agenda.

IV. Approval of February Meeting Minutes

Mr. Heilner motions to approve both the February and March minutes. Mr. Spruill seconds. The committee unanimously approves both minutes.

V. Director's Report

General Assistance (March 2017)

Director Neira reports the Department began March with 25 cases and ended March with 23 cases.

State Audit

The Department had a two-day state audit by the State Department of Human Services. The Department will correct some items-for instance, adding a missing signature or updating client information-by April 3, welfare day for clients. The auditors complemented the Department's file organization.

Interviewing Interns

Director Neira has interviewed one candidate for next year's library internship position. The current two interns leave next week. The Department will continue to have two interns next school year. Ms. Urias, administrative assistant, will also complete her MSW internship at Human Services.

Princeton Resource Guide

Yesterday, April 11, Director Neira and the two interns met with the library about the resource guide. The library will take ownership of it and post it online.

VI. Committee Reports

Chair Wishnick passes out draft mission statements for each subcommittee. He asks each chair to work on their subcommittee's statement by the next committee meeting.

a. SHUPP

Witherspoon Presbyterian Church approved SHUPP's application to serve breakfast there. The vendor for Ms. Gussin's Request for Proposal must now agree to provide shelf-stable breakfast for their site.

b. Immigration

Mr. Heilner reports that immigration continues their outreach efforts. He describes recent court activity regarding the government's funding of sanctuary cities. Director Neira and Mr. Trujillo went to a 'Train the Trainer, Know Your Rights', so they can lead trainings in town.

Director Neira and Council Member Howard met with Princeton University's Pace Center and their Community-Based Learning Initiative (CBLI). Those groups wanted to hear about Human Services' activities, particularly regarding Welcoming Community. They have a lot of students

and employees who want to help. Director Neira and Council Member Howard also gave them feedback. For instance, Pace Center volunteers' leafletting on the Women Infants and Children (WIC) clinic led to a lot more use of the program.

Some members went to the 'Beyond Borders' event at the Trinity Church. The event only had a small attendance. They want to bring Mr. Fink, the movie's director, and the two subjects of the film who all attended the Trinity Church event back to Princeton, possibly during Welcoming Week.

c. Housing

Director Neira reports the coalition now will build a training for housing navigator volunteers, who will sit down with those in need and assist them with for instance filling out affordable housing applications and looking for housing.

d. Youth Matters

Mr. Spruill reports that they had a great meeting with other nonprofit organizations: library, HiTops, Not in Our Town, and Corner House. They discussed youth issues and proposals to correct them. For instance, they want to collect data on minority kids in school. They will then analyze it and come up with a unified set of requests. Mr. Nishtar suggests the committee reach out to students at the Princeton schools as well. Committee members discuss youth issues.

e. Welcoming America

Mr. Trujillo reports that the sub-committee discussed Council goals: developing a welcoming plan and planning Welcoming Week. They discussed their approach to the two, including an asset-based framework of building off Princeton's existing resources and work on inclusion of all communities and what they all want. Members discuss Welcoming Week 2017. Next Week, Director Neira and Mr. Nistar will attend the Welcoming America Interactive in Atlanta, Georgia.

VII. Discussion

Members discuss under other agenda items.

VIII. Updates

Stand Against Racism

Director Neira mentions the Stand Against Racism event April 27 at 8:30 at Nassau Inn. All members received an invitation. The theme will be 'women of color leading change'. Director Neira and other women of color leading change will each talk for 3 minutes.

Bike Rodeo

Chair Wishnick mentions that the Bike Rodeo is on Saturday, May 20, 10:00 to 1:00, and needs volunteers.

IX. Closed Session

The committee does not enter closed session.

X. Adjournment

At 8:09 pm, Mr. Nishtar motions to adjourn. Mr. Spruill seconds. Members unanimously vote to adjourn.