

Human Rights

**City of Rye- Commission On Human Rights
January 24th 2004 Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Pat McGunagle, Jane Mickatavage, Janis Solomon, Larry Forsberg, Fred Penichet, Linda Fallo-Mitchell, Wonda Liu-Clyatt, Nancy Steed, Student Representative Yoo Jin Cheong.

Excused: Richard Propper, Susan Cicelsky, Peter Larr, Roz Larr, Amanda Hajjar

Pat McGunagle called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. There having been no December 2003 meeting due to lack of a quorum, the November 20th 2003 minutes were read and approved as rendered. A schedule of Commission meetings for the year 2004 was also distributed.

OLD BUSINESS-

- 1) *Human Rights Award-Plaque* > Fred Penichet reported the actual ordering process had not yet taken place due to his schedule, but that he hoped to have the plaque ordered by the next meeting. Pat McGunagle volunteered to jointly go next available Saturday to order same.
- 2) *Affordable Housing* > Pat McGunagle reported to the Commission that he had spoken once again with the Housing Action Council and that the final steps with regards to moving forward on updating the 1990 survey involved his finalizing a Power Point presentation outlining proposals, and to arrange to meet with individual members of the City Council, on a one-on-one basis, to brief them on the proposed steps (see November minutes). Pat also indicated that he had been able to reduce the HAC's for the survey updating from \$5000 to \$1500. The Commission once again expressed its thanks to Pat and the Affordable Housing subcommittee for all their ongoing efforts.

NEW BUSINESS-

- 1) *Diversity Day & Program* > Linda Fallow-Mitchell reported that the subcommittee (including Jane Mickatavage and Nancy Steed) had accomplished a great deal with regards to the preparation of the previously discussed diversity workshop for adults. The date of Sunday, February 29th has been set aside at the Wainwright House for 4 hours to allow for the workshop (to be conducted by Stephanie Lowe) to be held. The workshop will be sponsored by the Rye Commission on Human Rights, The Rye Youth Council, and ICARE. This came about after a breakfast meeting with representatives of various groups, including clergy from all the houses of worship, and the police commissioner. At this point, various Commission members contributed suggestions on format, content, advertisement, target groups and locations, and even a title for the day (tentatively selected as "Glass Gates"). Nancy Steed showed an initial idea for a flyer to be distributed, and Wonda Liu-Clyatt volunteered to distribute them in and around town. Jane Mickatavage reminded everyone that the middle and elementary

schools had a strict procedure for flyer distribution, which had to be taken into account. The target audience total seemed to gravitate between 30-50 attendees. Pat McGunagle was appointed to prepare press releases, etc. The possibility of an announcement on RCTV was discussed, and Linda Fallo-Mitchell modestly volunteered to be involved with its taping (note: this was done on January 26th). Final confirmation of all variables, etc. is scheduled to take place by the next meeting of the Commission in February. All of the Commissioners acknowledged the work of the subcommittee, and gave the three members well- deserved thanks for all their efforts.

- 2) *RCTV Show*> Nancy Steed suggested a “follow-up” theme for a show to be aired in late February or March, possibly involving Amanda Hajjar and Yoo Jin Cheong and touching on the topic of isolation and rejection of various ethnic and other teenage groups in the public schools. The topic for such a show was taken from an essay written in a school newspaper by a student describing herself in a “Glass Cage” and the associated frustration and despair it can engender. Pat McGunagle indicated he would check with RCTV for show taping time (note: the program was taped on February 4th for airing during the month).

There being no further business, Pat McGunagle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 PM, seconded by Larry Forsberg.

Submitted By-
Fred Penichet

City of Rye Commission on Human Rights September 25th 2003 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Pat McGunagle, Fred Penichet, Peter Larr, Wonda Liu Ciyatt,
Janis Solomon, Susan Cicelsky, Linda Fallo-Mitchell, Yoo Jin Cheong, Roz Larr (City Council rep),
Excused: Larry Forsberg, Nancy Steed, Richard Propper, Jane Mickatavage
Guests: Stephanie Lowe, Amanda Hajjar

Pat McGunagle called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM, and the minutes of the August 28th, 2003 meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Peter Larr to accept as presented, seconded by Fred Penichet; minutes approved.

Pat McGunagle welcomed guests Stephanie Lowe from the Rye Youth Council, and Amanda Hajjar. Ms. Hajjar is a senior at Rye Neck high school and has been designated as a second youth representative liaison (ex-officio) to be added to the Commission.

Old Business:

- 1) Human Rights Award- Pat McGunagle indicated they had received no nominations via mail, etc. as a result of the press release and cable TV information. He asked all Commissioners to consider nominations. He also indicated that an awards plaque had been approved by City Council, and all that remained was to actually order the item. Fred has offered to order the plaque.
- 2) Halloween Window Painting- Linda Fallo-Mitchell indicated the Rye Recreation Dept. had sent out applications that included a Human Rights component. Last year's presentation of a letter of recognition to those participating in the Human Rights component was discussed.
- 3) Affordable Housing- Pat McGunagle reported that the Affordable Housing Subcommittee had two meetings with Housing & Development agencies in Tarrytown, with a third meeting scheduled for 10/7/03. A consensus towards adopting 7 approaches to Affordable Housing (among which are Adaptive Reuse, Condemned Property and Group Housing) is being developed. Overlaying the demographics of Rye and further work on selection of the best options is ongoing. Pat indicated the Subcommittee would have a further report at the October meeting. Pat also announced he would be attending a Land Use Seminar at Pace Law School for the next two months, focusing on strategies to advance affordable housing, and he would report on the program at the October meeting.
- 4) RCTV Programming- The Commission was reminded the next HRC Show taping would take place on 10/2/03. The topic selected was "Jokes: That's Funny—Or Is It?". Volunteers for the panel were requested.

New Business:

- 1) Guest Stephanie Lowe gave a brief update on the Rye Youth Council, and their current involvement in diversity issues, etc. The history and origin of the Council, which stretches over 30 years, was discussed. The current breakdown of Youth Advocates and their mission was also delineated. A central theme of her visit centered around the possibility of the HRC being involved and helping to run (or being a part of) Diversity workshops involving adults, similar to the ones that she is involved with for teenagers, etc. Various options were discussed- the Commission leaning towards a "Community Summit" concept. The Commission expressed a desire to co-sponsor a program with the Youth Council targeted to adults in early 2004 if the Youth Council is interested, and if the current program can be modified. Linda Fallo-Mitchell was asked to continue to work with Ms. Lowe on program feasibility and development.

A call to adjourn was made by Peter Larr and seconded by Pat McGunagle at 8:33 PM.

Submitted by-
Fred Penichet

Commission on Human Rights
City of Rye
July 24th 2003 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Pat McGunagle, Fred Penichet, Peter Larr, Roz Larr, Larry Forsberg, Wonda Liu Clyatt,
Jane Mickatavage, Janis Solomon, Susan Cicelsky, Nancy Steed
Absent: Richard Propper, Linda Fallo-Mitchell
Guest: George Latimer

Pat McGunagle called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM, and the minutes of the last meeting (May) reviewed.
Motion made by Peter Larr to accept as presented, seconded by Larry Forsberg.

Pat McGunagle announced the return to the Commission of former member Susan Cicelsky, who was welcomed back by all present. The Commissioners presented their condolences to Nancy Steed on the recent passing of her mother.

Old Business:

- 1) Pat McGunagle asked for feedback on the next to last HRC TV show "Muslims In Rye". Most Commissioners indicated they had not yet seen it, and that it would likely air soon. The last show on July 15th ("Hard of Hearing") was discussed. It was generally agreed that it had been a success, particularly given the fact that a replacement technical crew had to be provided at the last minute. Some possible technical changes via editing, etc. were also considered. Commission agreed that Pat McGunagle had done a great job in his debut as Moderator, and that the program shed light on many good ideas and points with regards to the hard of hearing. Commissioners acknowledged Nancy Steed for yet another great coordination/production job. Pat McGunagle once again urged the Commission to come up with new topics for future shows, and to try to resurrect an old list of topics that Nancy Steed had put together last year. Also, after he queried Nancy about her spending her own monies for tape/copies, it was agreed that the Commission would check with either Mayor Otis or the City Council for reimbursement.
- 2) Fred Penichet reported that, basically, a standard design for the HRC Human Rights Award plaque was to be had by various vendors, and that they all ran between \$200.00 and \$300.00 to prepare, depending on how many inserts (or names, etc), varying from 24 to 48. All had flexible insert options, and some included the price of future engraving of additions as part of the up front cost. Pat McGunagle and Fred were going to go ahead with a selection, and the Commission authorized the actual procurement of whatever final selection of vendor/plaque Fred and Pat made.
- 3) Larry Forsberg indicated he had no new/additional report on HRC Benchmarking, but was continuing his research.
- 4) Due to Richard Propper being absent, his idea for a Student Human Rights Conference was tabled until the August meeting. Likewise, his reporting on attending a Sexual Orientation Session June 17th was postponed until August.
- 5) Nancy Steed indicated no activity with regards to the "Heard in Rye" Awareness Program.
- 6) Pat McGunagle brought up the subject of getting an early start on whichever way that the Commission was going to be involved in the Rye Recreation Dept. Halloween Painting Contest. It was generally agreed that Sally Rogof of the Recreation Dept. would not have time to address any issue (awards, recognition, etc.) on the contest until the end of Summer Camp at the Rec. The possibility of an essay on Human Rights was discussed, but it was subsequently agreed that it might be too much, as Jane Mickatavage had suggested, for what essentially was a "recreation" event. Jane volunteered to contact Sally as soon as feasible.

New Business:

- 1) Jane Mickatavage presented additional info with regards to the newly selected Rye High School (non-voting) Representative to the Commission, Ms. Yoo Jin Cheong. Ms. Cheong is currently a Junior at RHS. Wonda Clyatt queried Jane briefly on the selection process. Susan Cicelsky suggested the possibility of selecting a second individual (another Junior) next year, so as to have two representatives, and in so doing create more

continuity for the positions. It was also suggested that selection might also be expanded to Rye Country Day School, and Rye Neck High School as well. The proposals were well received by Commission members. Pat McGunagle authorized the process to continue under those auspices, and Jane Mickatavage agreed to reach out to Rye Neck High School as a first step.

- 2) Pat McGunagle indicated that it was not too soon to begin the process for nominations and selection of the 2003 HRC Human Rights Award. Initial names proffered were Joan Garrity, Alice Conrad and Pat Patterson. Peter Larr volunteered to help Pat begin the nomination process, including announcements in newspapers. Susan Cicelsky indicated that she would like to see the presentation ceremony not involved with any house of worship. She indicated she would prefer to see the proceedings be separate from the Rye Interfaith Service, as it is currently being done, in keeping with separation of Church and State. The origin of how the presentation was moved from its original Memorial Day Celebrations venue was briefly explored, and Pat McGunagle asked for individual opinions from all Commissioners present. These ran the gamut from rejection of the idea, to either partial, qualified or complete agreement with her suggestion. It was decided that Pat and Peter would proceed with the current process, and that the Commission begin to explore the possibility of changing back to Memorial Day of 2004 for presentation on a going forward basis.
- 3) Nancy Steed briefly brought forward again the proposal for a Community Forum on Human Rights. General response was that the Commission was ill equipped at this time to be the sole sponsor of such an event. Pat McGunagle suggested future exploration for an umbrella group that would either share or direct such an event, with our help.

Note- George Latimer visited the meeting shortly after the beginning of the discussion of New Business. A few minutes later he reported to the Commission his plan to change the current law regarding which municipalities can refer Human Rights cases directly to the Westchester County Human Rights Commission, based on local HRC's being in place or not within those communities. Briefly, the proposal involved allowing 5 cases per year to be brought to the WCHRC by those local Commissions now in place, after local attempts to resolve the case proved unsuccessful. He saw this as a proposal which could be accepted by the majority of the legislature, and which would provide for a balance between communities that had high volume of cases and those with a low volume. The Commission wholeheartedly agreed with his plan, and Mr. Latimer indicated he would go ahead with the process as soon as possible.

A call to adjourn was made by Peter Larr and seconded by Larry Forsberg, and the meeting was so ended at 9:08 PM.

Submitted by-
Fred Penichet

City of Rye
Commission on Human Rights

Minutes of May 22, 2003 Meeting

In Attendance: Wonda Clyatt, Linda Fallo-Mitchell, Peter Larr, Roz Larr, Jane Mickatavage, Fred Penichet, Richard Propper, Janis Solomon, Nancy Steed

Excused: Larry Forsberg, Maia Kaufman, Pat McGunagle

Meeting called to order by Fred Penichet, Acting Chair, at 7:37 PM. Minutes of the March 27th meeting were reviewed, several corrections noted, and a motion to accept them as corrected was made by Peter Larr, seconded by Jane Mickatavage

Old Business—

- 1) Fred Penichet reported that no new names of past recipients of the HRC Human Rights Award have come to light. Richard Propper suggested that we look at the list one more time before going ahead with the plaque. Suggestions were made for designing the plaque with space between the names or some such “adjustable” arrangement that would allow for inclusion of “forgotten” names. Fred will look into plaque configurations and report at the next meeting, at which time we would like to order the plaque.
- 2) Fred Penichet asked for feedback on the recent HRC program on RCTV, Muslims in Rye. Since it was determined that the program had not aired prior to this meeting, the discussion was tabled until the next meeting. There was, however, agreement that the taping went well. Richard Propper did indicate that moderating the discussion becomes difficult approximately three-quarters of the way through and asked if we could “plant” questions or comments that would help reactivate the discussion. Roz Larr mentioned that she received a call from an RCDS parent about the “Dying High” video produced by White Plains Hospital. Would HRC consider using/producing a video as part of their programming on issues. Human rights issues surrounding Spring break trips was brought up as a possible topic.

New Business—

- 1) Fred Penichet noted that Nicole Levitsky has requested HRC’s intended shows for June. Nancy Steed indicated that June was not a good time for her and suggested several dates in July. Roz Larr will communicate these dates to Nicole. Possible topics for the show were discussed: Hearing Impaired Individuals; Teens and Shoplifting; and discrimination against minorities (profiling) in stores in Rye.
- 2) Fred Penichet read a message from Alison Green regarding a meeting on June 17 at the White Plains Public Library on the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act. All are invited, registration is not required, and admission is free. Richard Propper will be attending and will report back at the next meeting.

- 3) Fred asked everyone to look at the article on a Student Human Rights Conference held in Yonkers that was attached to the minutes. The group was asked to think about hosting a similar conference in Rye, possibly in the Fall. Jane Mickatavage indicated that Stephanie Lowe, a RYC advocate, does something similar. Jane will speak to Stephanie and see if HRC can work with her or take the lead on planning and implement a diversity conference.
- 4) The issue of incorporating a human rights component into Rye's Halloween Window Painting event was raised. Linda Fallo-Mitchell will contact Sally Rogol at Rye Recreation to discuss possible options.
- 5) Nancy Steed raised the issue of raising awareness of HRC. She suggested an article in the Rye Record. Richard Propper offered to resurrect an article on "Common Sense" which he wrote. Linda Fallo-Mitchell suggested that HRC develop a program, possibly with the Performance Plus players, which could be presented through Heard in Rye, the community speaker's bureau aimed at parent education. Heard in Rye gets good attendance at their programs and sponsoring a presentation would help to raise awareness of HRC. Linda and Nancy Steed will work together on this suggestion.
- 6) Jane Mickatavage asked if HRC wanted to invite another student to join the Commission since Maia Kaufman was graduating. She raised the possibility of inviting a High School junior who would remain a member for 2 years. She also asked about recognizing Maia and her contributions to the committee. It was decided that something would be done at the council level, a certificate to thank her. Peter Larr will get the certificate and a frame and include the logo, designed by Maia, on the certificate.

Motion to adjourn was made by Peter Larr and seconded by Janis Solomon, and the meeting ended at 8:36 PM

Submitted by
Linda Fallo-Mitchell

Human Rights Commission City of Rye

Minutes of March 27th 2003 Meeting

In Attendance: Pat McGunagle, Fred Penichet, Larry Forsberg, Roz Larr, Peter Larr,
Nancy Steed, Janis Solomon, Maia Kaufman

Excused: Richard Proper, Jane Mickitavage, Wonda Clyatt, Linda Fallo-Mitchell

Guests: ~~Rye High School~~ students Krista Constantino, Ariella Monti and Evelyn
Wong.

MANHATTANVILLE college

Meeting called to order at 7:36 PM. Minutes of the February 27th meeting were reviewed and a motion to accept them was made by Peter Larr, seconded by Larry Forsberg.

Old Business-

- 1) Fred Penichet reported that he had not had a chance to review microfiche records at the Rye Free Reading Room to search for missing HRC Human Rights Award recipients for addition to the master plaque being planned. Janis Solomon suggested also contacting former HRC member Isobel Perry for any information she might have on the missing recipients. Fred advised he would do both by the next meeting. Peter Larr suggested proceeding with procuring the master plaque and adding recipients subsequently as they are found.
- 2) Larry Forsberg gave a synopsis of his recent benchmarking efforts, which were considerable. Copies of various reports, files, web sites and other materials were distributed to Commission members for review, including information on our sister city of Rye in the United Kingdom. Cities contacted by Larry this point include Bedford, Irvington, Mt. Pleasant, and in Connecticut also Norwich and Darien. Larry reported researching the web site "National League of Cities" which provided insights not only on Human Rights Commissions and similar bodies (where they existed) on additional compatible cities and towns, but also provided information on Low-Income and Affordable Housing, Race Relations, and other topics of general civic interest. In addition Larry indicated having a cordial exchange with the Mamaroneck Human Rights Commission Chair (members are rotated annually through the Chair, and the Commission serves the Town of Mamaroneck, the Village of Mamaroneck and the Village of Larchmont) Robin Nichinsky. The Mamaroneck Commission has a number of similar programs (including the use of the Rye Players to put on skits, etc. similar to those we produce for RCTV) to ours. Ms. Nichinsky invited the Commissions to get together in the near future to compare notes, etc. over refreshments. Pat McGunagle indicated he would certainly look into coordinating such a gathering in the future. Larry indicated he would continue his research using a number of key elements and references he has found in the various helpful web sites. The Commission thanked Larry for his efforts and commended him on his continuing research.

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- 3) Pat Gunagle announced the next show on RCTV was scheduled for April 23rd. The Commission once again reviewed possible topics, including backlash against the Arab community due the war against Iraq. Nancy Steed indicated she would have a topic selected and a vignette prepared by the 23rd.

New Business-

- 1) Maia Kaufman presented a hand drawn rendition of a logo for the Commission to use as necessary (web site, etc.) The logo represents an upturned human hand holding the letters HRC in stylized block letters. The Commission thanked Maia for her work and commented favorably on the overall design concept, with some minimal suggestions being made for possible modifications to facilitate its future use.
- 2) Pat McGunagle indicated he would be meeting in the near future with the Chief of Police, to, among other things, introduce himself, and discuss beginning to establish some linkage or mechanism between the Rye Police Dept. and the Commission. This would allow for smoother interaction between the two bodies in the future if the need ever arose.

Motion to adjourn was made by Larry Forsberg and seconded by Fred Penichet, and the meeting ended at 8:47 PM.

Submitted by-
Fred Penichet

Human Rights Commission City of Rye

Minutes of February 27th 2003 Meeting

In attendance: Pat McGunagle, Fred Penichet, Richard Propper, Wonda Clyatt, Peter Larr, Roz Larr, Larry Forsberg, Jane Mickatavage, Maia Kaufmann, Linda Fallo-Mitchell

Excused: Nancy Steed. Absent: Janis Solomon

Meeting called to order by Pat McGunagle at 7:51 PM at the Starbucks Outlet on Purchase St., there being no access to City Hall meeting rooms. Pat McGunagle introduced and welcomed newest Commission member Dr. Linda Fallow-Mitchell. Linda proceeded to give a brief synopsis of her background, including education & experience. Having been no meetings in December or January, the minutes of the November meeting were read; motion made by Larry Forsberg and seconded by Peter Larr to accept same passed.

Old Business-

- 1) Feedback on the December 12 2002 RCTV program was discussed by members. Pat McGunagle indicated Nancy Steed would be able to do another program in late March or early April (see New Business).
- 2) Pat McGunagle indicated that Larry Forsberg would bring the Commission up to date on his Benchmarking involving other communities with regards to Affordable and Low-Income Housing and local Human Rights Commissions, where they existed. Larry presented some brief notes involving the communities of Darien and Norwich, CT and Bedford, NY. Pat McGunagle asked Larry to prepare copies of his final report, specifically for the City Council (via Roz Larr) for their review and consideration; for the City Manager for permanent record; and the Rye Interfaith Group. Roz Larr reported the promising proposal for the county to buy parcels of land for development by the city for Affordable Housing has fallen through, due to the lack of city funds. Richard Propper suggested that once the reports are presented as above, the subject of Affordable Housing should be put aside by the Commission until a more favorable set of circumstances present themselves. Pat McGunagle indicated his intention to write to our sister city of Rye in England for information on whether they have a Human Rights Commission, and other points of Benchmarking comparison.
- 3) Additional feedback on the Human Rights Award ceremony was discussed with Jane Mickatavage's nomination of Ann Spaeth described as "...an excellent choice..." by Pat McGunagle and other members. The Commission thanked Richard Propper for procuring the presentation plaque. Jane reported that Ann was "...very happy..." to have been honored by the City of Rye. The future of the

large plaque to be hung at City Hall was discussed. Fred Penichet indicated he would check old records of the Rye Chronicle and Daily Item to try to find the missing recipients not already accounted for, so as to be able to finish the plaque. The option of putting up the plaque pending the procurement of the missing names was suggested by Richard Propper, along with an suggestion (tabled for future consideration) of nominating of Alice Conrad for the 2003 award.

New Business-

- 1) Topics to be suggested to Nancy Steed for the next RCTV program were discussed. Some of the topics included individuals being called to duty overseas and losing their jobs, underage drinking, and harassment of Muslim Siiks involving misguided anti-terrorist backlash. Pat McGunagle indicated that the earliest date for Nancy to be able to put on a show would be late March or early April.
- 2) Pat McGunagle announced that the newest Commission member Dr. Fallo-Mitchell would be sworn on Wednesday, March 5th at City Hall.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jane Mickatavage and seconded by Peter Larr at 8:36 PM.

Submitted by-
Fred Penichet

Minutes: Commission on Human Rights November 20, 2002 Meeting

Present: Patrick McGunagle, Peter Larr, Wonda Clyatt, Larry Forsberg, Janis Solomon, Maia Kaufman, Richard Propper (ex-officio)

Absent Excused: Nancy Steed (ex – officio), Jane Mickatavage, Fred Penichet

Council Liaison: Roz Larr (excused – Council Mtg.)

The meeting came to order at 7:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

Chairman McGunagle reported on the conclusion of the Calderone inquiry. A letter to the initiator of the inquiry and to the third party involved brought the inquiry to an amicable close.

Larry Forsberg reported that his benchmarking inquiries are proceeding, and that he had nothing new to report to the Commission.

Chairman McGunagle reported that he, Fred Penichet, Richard Propper and Jane Mickatavage had attended the ceremony in which Wil Goldstein became an Eagle Scout. Wil, one of the youngest Eagle Scouts, has been organizing and managing the camera crew that had been filming Human Rights presentations on Rye City Cable TV. All reflected on Wil's remarkable accomplishments, his clear potential for continued success, and our appreciation of his assistance.

Chairman McGunagle called the Commission's attention to Maia Kaufman's induction into the National Honor Society. All present offered their congratulations to Maia for her important achievement.

The Commission briefly reviewed the pro-forma Commission logo created by Maia Kaufman. A number of suggested enhancements were suggested. Maia will prepare a revised logo, which will not be used for official business.

Chairman McGunagle showed the plaque to be awarded to Ann Spaeth by the Human Rights Commission on November 24, 2002. The plaque commemorated Ann's selection for the Rye City Human Rights Award. He thanked Richard Propper and the Commission's assistance in identifying an outstanding candidate for the award.

Logistical issues were discussed relating to the December 12 RHRC vignette taping for Rye City Cable TV. The crew had been set, the script completed, and several commission members offered to be on the panel. Chairman McGunagle was to complete final arrangements.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for January 23rd, 2003. No December meeting is planned unless a substantive agenda surfaces.

Human Rights Commission City of Rye

Meeting Minutes- September 26th, 2002

In Attendance- Pat McGunagle, Richard Propper, Peter Larr, Roz Larr, Larry Forsberg,
Janis Solomon, Wonda Clyatt, Maia Kaufmann, Fred Penichet

Excused- Nancy Steed, Jane Mickitavage.

Meeting called to order by Pat McGunagle at 7:33 PM. Pat read a note of thanks from William Goldstein thanking the Commission for their help in his Eagle Scout project. Minutes of the August 22, 2002 meeting were read and approved with minor typographical corrections.

Old Business-

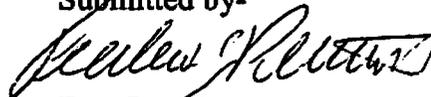
- 1) Pat McGunagle congratulated commissioners involved in the September 19th RCTV program, titled "Computers Can Hurt". He advised would have Richard Propper check with Nancy Steed as to the next viable date for another HRC RCTV show in October or November.
- 2) Final Rye HRC Governance Rules copies distributed and reviewed. Richard Propper suggested incorporating the Rules as "law"; part of the HRC structure with regards to the City of Rye, etc. Peter Larr advised that they should be used as guidelines, and should stay as is- in effect, "procedures". Peter advised would continue to expand on enforcement mechanisms for the Rules at a future date.
- 3) Benchmarking Report by Larry Forsberg presented (copies and handouts- reviewed for the benefits of new members) and discussed. Various observations were noted, specifically: Peter Larr, with regards to Affordable Housing; indicated that, with regards to Rye, there is no money to purchase land- must be donated. Since only one of the four plots owned by Westchester County in Rye was viable, and then found to be in need of prohibitively expensive clean up, nothing is available now or in the foreseeable future. Tax abatements possible, but not desirable by city. Roz Larr indicated there is a project underway for Moderate Income Housing, where the County had bought a plot, and sold to a contractor for \$1. The contractor was to build 8 units to be sold in the \$50,000 to \$60,000 range. It was agreed that the Commission would hold off on any further attention to the Housing situation until further developments warrant it, and instead concentrate on the programs, functions, etc. that other commissions were involved in. Larry indicated he would continue to check with other communities and commissions.

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New Business-

- 1) Pat McGunagle presented particulars with regards to the Calderon complaint (involving alleged age discrimination by the Osborn Home) including a complete report on the meeting of September 9th, 2002 with Mr. Calderon and his son. It was decided to arrange a meeting with the Osborn Home staff involved in the allegations. Fred Penichet, Larry Forsberg and Janis Solomon agreed to accompany Pat McGunagle to the meeting.
- 2) Pat McGunagle indicated Jane Mickitavage continues to organize nominations for prospective recipients of the HRC Human Rights Award. Fred Penichet will check archived records for all available additional nominations carried over from 2001. It was decided to not have a press release at this point, due to time conflicts and other considerations involving the backlog of nominations from 2001. Pat indicated he would confirm the location of this year's ecumenical service.
- 3) Fred Penichet reported that Sally Rogolo at the Rye Recreation Dept. indicated that, due to the large number of participants for this year's Halloween Window Painting Contest, there would be no "judging" as there has been in past years. She mentioned the real possibility of combining entrants into teams, due to limited window space. A participation certificate would be sent to each individual. Fred mentioned he was finalizing wording unique to the certificate to be presented to those who signed up under the Human Rights category to give to Sally. Richard Propper indicated it would be a good idea for the Commission to follow up and send a separate letter to Human Rights category participants, thanking them for their involvement.
- 4) Richard Propper and Pat McGunagle released info with regards to local events upcoming of possible interest to Commission members.
- 5) Roz Larr made brief mention of creating a logo for the HRC. It was agreed to have it discussed further at future meeting.
- 6) Call for adjournment by Pat McGunagle was seconded by Peter Larr, ending the meeting at 8:55 PM.

Submitted by-



Fred Penichet

Human Rights Commission City of Rye

Minutes of August 22, 2002 Meeting

In attendance: Pat McGunagle, Fred Penichet, Richard Propper, Wonda Clyatt, Janice Solomon, Maia Kaufman.

Excused: Peter Larr, Roz Larr, Larry Forsberg, Nancy Steed, Jane Mickatavage.

Meeting called to order by Pat McGunagle at 7:44 PM, welcoming new members Wonda Clyatt and Maia Kaufman, the new student liaison to the Commission. The minutes of the May 23rd meeting (there having been no June or July meetings) were read and approved with typographical corrections.

Old Business-

- 1) Larry Forsberg and Peter Larr not in attendance, the subject of Benchmarking of and with other Human Rights Commissions was tabled until the September meeting.
- 2) Governing Rules review and discussion was tabled until the September meeting, due to Peter Larr not being in attendance. Richard Propper suggested a review and discussion in September of the recently accepted procedures for the benefit of the new members.
- 3) The update on the Human Rights Commission plaque was also tabled until the next meeting in September.
- 4) Pat McGunagle reported that an amended set of law clarifying the relationship between the Westchester Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Commissions of local municipalities was pending as of 6/25/02. The Right of First Refusal will be enacted, in that any complaints will go through local Commissions first, unless the local body finds, and the complainant agrees, that the WHRC should have jurisdiction initially. Pat indicated further updates would be reported at the September meeting.

New Business-

- 1) Pat McGunagle indicated he would be speaking with Nancy Steed and Richard Propper independently to set up the next show of the Commission on RCTV. The subject to be discussed (the web site "Vote For Fun") was briefly described and discussed. Possible dates in September were reviewed.
- 2) The subject of more exposure in the media was discussed, and a possible press release for the annual Human Rights Award being issued before the September meeting was entertained.

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- 3) Richard Propper suggested two new possible candidates for membership in the Commission- Bonnie Dowling and Richard Stackpole. A brief description of the candidates followed.
- 4) Call for adjournment by Pat McGunagle was seconded by Fred Penichet, ending the meeting at 8:38 PM.

Submitted by-
Fred Penichet

April 25
10

Human Rights Commission City of Rye

Minutes of May 23, 2002 Meeting

In attendance: Pat McGunagle, Fred Penichet, Peter Larr, Roz Larr, Jane Mickatavage,
Larry Forsberg, ManLai Cheng Nancy Steed.

Excused: Jan Solomon, Richard Propper.

Meeting called to order by Pat McGunagle at 7:40 PM, thanking Roz Larr for the preparation of the minutes of the April meeting, and confirming that Wonda L.Clyatt would not be present until the June meeting. Minutes of the April 25th meeting were read and approved.

Old Business-

- 1) Peter Larr and Larry Forsberg reported on HRC Benchmarking. Peter indicated he had spoken with Alison Greene and that their discussion indicated that Rye was unique, and that "...there was no demographic model that looked like us...". Larry indicated he had spoken with the mayors of Alpine and Closter, NJ, along with those of Westport and Southport, Ct. Both Larry and Peter advised they would continue the process.
- 2) ManLai Cheng advised that per David Hood, there are no funds for a new Domain Name or Link. Roz Larr suggested ManLai speak with Kerry Donahue as to the possibility of tying in to the existing link for the City of Rye. Pat McGunagle further suggested that only a contents page, as a subordinated entry, would be sufficient. A suggestion to add pictures, e-mail addresses and a link to the Westchester HRC was discussed, but not accepted as viable.
- 3) Pat McGunagle advised that a possible candidate for the Commission, Mr. Michael Sexton, who was invited to attend the meeting, had withdrawn his name from consideration. Pat also indicated a second candidate- Mr. Harold Hoser, was under consideration. Pat mentioned that he would be meeting in approximately two weeks with Mayor Otis, to discuss candidates, and his (Mayor Otis') views on the future of the Commission. Other possible candidates were discussed, amongst them Doug Casey (not eligible- serving on another Commission) and Beau Carrington, suggested by Larry Forsberg. Peter Larr indicated that we should look for those who are, in fact, keen to join, and Nancy Steed suggested a return to canvassing in local media, such as church bulletins, etc.

New Business-

- 1) Pat McGunagle reported on his attendance at the Westchester HRC Seminar and Meeting of May 20/21, and having spoken with Alison Greene. Pat indicated she described other HRC's in Westchester, and touched upon the cases of Peekskill

and New Rochelle in particular. The current regulations governing the WHRC and local HRC's were also discussed, and in particular the pending legislative change involving the "Right of First Refusal" for communities that have a Human Rights Commission. The local HRC could refer cases to the WHRC, or the individual with a complaint/case could continue to pursue the matter directly to the WHRC as well. Pat advised that he would be contacting Richard Propper and George Latimer to assure their continued vigilance/action with regards to changing the current language of the WHRC regulations.

- 2) Peter Larr presented an list of governing guidelines and a voting outline for the Commission to follow in the future, based on acceptance by same. A motion was made by Larry Forsberg and seconded by Jane Mickatavage to accept the list, with a modification expanding the item regarding Public Comment.
- 3) Nancy Steed mentioned a new idea for the next HRC cable program, based on the web site known as "Vote For Fun". The youth advocates at Rye High School discovered activity by students interacting with the site, and sent letters to parents about possible harm done in a social context by the site. Nancy mentioned two possible dates for the next show: June 26th or July 2nd, and that she would check with Richard Propper for crew availability, etc.
- 4) Jane Mickatavage announced and briefly described a new candidate for student liaison to the Commission, Maia Kaufman- a junior at Rye High School. The Commission looked forward to meeting the new candidate at a future date.
- 5) Peter Larr motioned to adjourn, seconded by Larry Forsberg, ending the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by-
Fred Penichet

Human Rights

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Minutes - Feb 28, 2002

Members Present: Chairman - Fred Penichet; G. Pat McGunagle; Janis Solomon; Council liaison - Roz Larr; Ex-officio - Manlai Cheng; Guest - Richard Propper; Pending Member Larry Forsberg

Excused: Nancy Steed, Jane Mickatavage, Peter Larr

Absent: Susan Cicelsky, Janice Pierce

The meeting began with the introduction of Larry Forsberg to the Human Rights Commission.

Open Issue: A letter from absent member Janice Pierce was read. Janice sends her regrets for not being able to continued being a member of HRC due to her busy schedule. The human rights commission expressed the need for new members, especially ones with experience.

New Info: Pending Chairman Fred Penichet spoke of his regrets of not being able to take over as a permanent chairman and had asked Pat McGunagle to take over as the new chairman of HRC. Pat had accepted this offer and now needs pending approval from the HRC, Rye City Council, and Mayor Steve Otis. Fred spoke highly of Pat for the two cases that he had worked on and offered any help to Pat if needed.

The Westchester County Human Rights Commission: Richard explained the situation about the varying, possibly conflicting roles of the county and local commissions. He had written a letter to Legislator George Latimer and at Latimer's request, had send him another copy. Richard reported that Latimer hopes to tackle this matter within 90 days, possibly sometimes this spring.

RCTV Programs: Pat distributed to members a memorandum from Nancy Steed. Nancy sent her regrets of not being able to attend the meeting and plans to tape more RCTV programs on suggested dates. The members designated March 14th as the first choice, March 26th as the second, and any other day after April 14th.

Next Meeting: Janis Soloman bought up the issue of Passover and Easter conflicting with the fourth Thursday of March. Members agreed to move the March meeting to the 3rd Thursday, March 21st.

Affordable Housing: Roz Larr reported on the latest situation with affordable housing. She had spoken to Paul Hackett of Interfaith, and Caroline Cunningham but didn't have much success in obtaining any new information. She will continue to try to get in touch with Marion Shea of Interfaith. Pat McGunagle indicated the need to ask the new City Council what position and role exactly does the HRC play in future development projects.

Record Organizing: Fred and Richard reaffirmed their commitment to organize and file old records. Fred suggested that maybe Pat putting it on computer?

Old Issue: Pat McGunagle distributed the summary of Jolene Festa's issued complaint to Nancy Steed. On February 26th, Pat along with Jan Soloman, Nancy Steed, interviewed City Manager Julia Novak and her assistant Charles Peretz. Ms. Novak stated that Ms. Festa's dismissal had nothing to do with her disability and that provisional termination does not need an explanation. Mr. Peretz provided a copy of Ms. Festa's provisional appointment letter and description of her job, along with the section of the New York State Civil Service Law. Ways to handle terminations were discussed and Ms. Novak agreed to explore to alternative ways to give out dismissals. It seemed that Ms. Festa just wanted some closure. Pat, Nancy, and Jan found no discrimination in this case and feel that they do not need to furthermore pursue Ms. Festa's complaint. Pat suggested in closing the case and plans to write a follow up letter to Ms. Novak thanking her for her time and another to Ms. Festa on the HRC's conclusion. Fred applauded Pat, Jan, and Nancy for a job well done and also agree to close the case.

Adjournment: The HRC again praised Pat for all his contributions and again welcomed Larry to the commission. Pat made a motion to end this highly productive meeting, followed by a second from Fred.

Submitted by Manlai Cheng

Human Rights

Commission on Human Rights Minutes – January 24th, 2002

Members present: Fred Penichet, Chairman, Peter Larr, G.Patrick McGunagle, Jane Mickatavage, Janice Pierce, Janis Solomon – Ex-Officio: Manlai Cheng, Nancy Steed – Council liaison: Roz Larr - Guest: Richard Propper

Absent: Susan Cicelsky

Fred Penichet confirmed that Richard Propper had resigned from the Commission as of December 31st, 2001 because he had moved to Rye Brook. Fred noted that he had been appointed Interim Chair of the Commission, for 60 days, pending the designation of a permanent Chair. Fred asked everyone to consider nominees for the post. The members asked Fred to consider a permanent assignment. Fred then thanked Richard Propper for his past service and the members of the Commission for their support.

Next, Fred suggested that Richard remain on the Commission, ex-officio and Nancy Steed to continue her assistance in producing the excellent RCTV programs on behalf of the Commission. Richard and Nancy agreed. The members then unanimously affirmed both suggestions.

RCTV PROGRAMS: Peter Larr and others received positive feedback on the last program about gays moving into the neighborhood. The realistic performances of Linda and Gurney Williams prompted Nancy to propose that an "opinion of the actors" disclaimer appear at the end of each program. Richard added that since the Rye Free Reading Room had agreed to make tapes of the shows available through them that, too, should, be added to the credits.

OPEN ISSUE: Pat indicated that he had not received a response to his letter to Dr. Shine, but was satisfied that the point had been made. Fred concurred and the Commission agreed to drop the issue.

ABSENCE: The matter of Susan Cicelsky's many absences was discussed and the consequential delay in the plaque planned for City Hall. Jane agreed to contact Susan to determine the status of the plaque and Susan's interest in continuing as a member of the Commission.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: Richard reported that he had not yet received a response from Legislator George Latimer about the varying, possibly conflicting, roles of the county commission and local commissions. The members reiterated the urgency of this matter and Richard agreed to contact George directly.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: The Commission still feels strongly about affordable housing. A planned meeting in Rye had been postponed. Peter stated that "...we should stop waiting and operate on our own...by exploring alternatives to Theodore Fremd and find out what other communities are doing." Peter will stay in contact with Marion Shea of Rye Interfaith Housing. Pat will work with him. Fred asked Council Member Roz Larr to present an update from the City Council at our next meeting.

RECORD ORGANIZING: Fred and Richard reaffirmed their commitment to organize the records, discard unnecessary ones, and bring the important, but inactive, records to City Hall for filing. Manlai volunteered to assist in this endeavor. The Chairman will still maintain active records.

NEW BUSINESS: Nancy stated that she had received an informal inquiry from someone who had been dismissed from her job in Rye with no reason given. This person felt entitled to one. Nancy asked, and the caller agreed, to write Nancy a letter outlining the situation. Fred asked Janis, Pat and Nancy to review the letter when it came, and advise him of their reactions.

Peter moved, and Fred seconded, that the Commission establish a procedure to determine and accelerate the Commission's advice and response to those who contact it. (Note from Richard: Commission still needs general rules and guidelines to deal with a *variety* of procedural issues. The Commission has no known by-laws. Peter agreed previously to address this.)

ADJOURNMENT: After noting the highly productive meeting, and expressing appreciation to Fred, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Richard Propper

City of Rye Human Rights Commission

December 6th, 2001 - Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Richard Propper, Fred Penichet, Pat McGunagle, Jane Mickatavage,
Nancy Steed, Peter Larr, Roz Larr, Janis Solomon, Janice Pierce,
Manlai Cheng.

Absent: Susan Cicelsky

- 1) Minutes of October 25th Meeting not yet available, per Fred Penichet. Mr. Penichet advised he would have them prepared by the January meeting.
- 2) Richard Propper indicated had not heard from Susan Cicelsky for a while, and that no plaque for Human Rights Award recipients had been generated. Mr. Propper indicated he would attempt to contact Mrs. Cicelsky for an update. In addition, Mr. Propper advised the Commission as to the timely presentation of this year's Human Rights Award to Ms. Lydia Jenner, coming just after her brother being operated on. Ms. Jenner once again expressed her joy and thanks at receiving the award, according to Mr. Propper.
- 3) Fred Penichet reported on his case involving a Hispanic caller. Mr. Penichet attempted to contact the caller at the number given, but was advised by a person identifying herself as the "caller's mother" that no one had made a call to the Commission. Mr. Penichet educated the individual, and within 24 hrs. received a 2nd call from a male individual identifying himself as a "friend of the family" to whom Mr. Penichet once again explained events. This second individual once again confirmed that no one in the household had called the Commission. Mr. Penichet educated the individual as to options and procedure. The case is considered closed at this time.
- 4) Pat McGunagle reported that a letter was sent to Dr. Shine of the Board of Education with regards to the case of Mr. Locurto, who had requested the Commission look into possible discrimination with regards to his hiring by the Board, on the basis of his sexual orientation. Mr. McGunagle verified with the Board their practice of not calling back unsuccessful candidates for positions in the school system. The letter recommended a change in their procedure, and the addition of the words "sexual orientation" to their statement that indicates that they do not discriminate along various lines. A copy of the letter was sent to Mr. Locurto.
- 5) Mr. McGunagle also reported on a second case being closed with regards to the couple complaining of harassment by a neighbor and the alleged destruction of some of their personal property by this same neighbor. The couple had hired independent legal counsel, who had warned the neighbor to "...be more civil.." Mr. Holloman (complainant) indicated that he was in the process of building a fence, and thanked Mr. McGunagle and the Commission for their response. Mr. McGunagle to present a copy of Mr. Holloman's letter to him for Commission minutes and records. The Commission thanked Mr. McGunagle for his efforts and perseverance in handling both cases.

- 6) Nancy Steed reported on the 11/29 show on the issue of Gay Rights had "gone well". She discussed various issues of principles where the question of whether the City of Rye would be more negative than the panel would be. The religious issue indicated at the end of the show expressed beliefs in an affirmative manner. Richard Propper indicated the show crew was doing a good job, and that the Thanksgiving Service tape was being edited and readied for airing. Mrs. Steed suggested the addition of a disclaimer at the end of the shows to protect the players. New topics for future shows were discussed, amongst them Sexual Harassment, Economic Discrimination and Racial Profiling.
- 7) Richard Propper indicated that he would shortly be writing a letter to George Latimer with regards to the Westchester Human Rights Commission powers and jurisdiction, indicating the unfairness of the WHRC not following up on cases handled by existing Human Rights Commissions locally.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:24 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Fred Penichet

City of Rye Human Rights Commission

October 4th and 10th, 2001 Meeting Minutes

October 4th Meeting-

In attendance: Richard Propper, Fred Penichet

Excused: Susan Cicelsky, Janet Pierce, Jane Mickatavage, Nancy Steed,
Pat McGunagle, Peter Larr, Roz Larr.

Absent: Janis Solomon

Pending Member: Ms. ManLai Cheng. Guest: William Goldstein

Due to the lack of commission members present, Richard Propper and Fred Penichet reviewed and briefly discussed the following topics:

- 1) Mr. Propper has been informed by the Westchester Human Rights Commission (WHRC) that the latest interpretation of their charter/laws indicates that if a complaint originates in a municipality that HAS a Human Rights Commission, at the end of whatever mediation process or similar decision mechanism for that particular commission is completed, if the parties involved wish to pursue their claim(s), they CANNOT be referred to the WHRC. The parties must bring their grievance directly to the New York State level. Only if the complaint originates in a municipality that does NOT have a Human Rights Commission can the WHRC hear and arbitrate the case. Both Mr. Propper and Mr. Penichet agreed that this latest interpretation is unacceptable and would make the existing commissions superfluous. Additional discussion was scheduled for the next meeting, and Mr. Propper indicated that he would check with George Latimer to confirm this latest information.
- 2) Mr. Propper indicated he has received two letters voicing potential cases, which he briefly described. One of the inquiries was assigned to Pat McGunagle, and the other was assigned to Jane Mickatavage. Further discussion was held off until next meeting.
- 3) William Goldstein advised his crew for filming the shows on RCTV was ready. General agreement was reached on which topic (of a group suggested to Mr. Propper by Nancy Steed e-mail) should be done as the first show; this being the item asking why there is a need (in Rye, in general) for a Commission on Human Rights. All agreed the 1st show would be taped 10/22, 7:00PM at RCTV studios.
- 4) Mr. Propper indicated that, per Carolyn Cunningham, the City Council was still awaiting updates/movement by Westchester County with regards to Affordable Housing (Theodore Fremd property, etc.). Mr. Propper to revisit next meeting.
- 5) Meeting adjourned 8:32PM. Richard Propper indicated he would be calling for an "emergency" meeting on Wednesday, 10/10 due to the urgency of certain items before the commission.

(continued)

October 10th Meeting-

In attendance: Richard Propper, Fred Penichet, Nancy Steed, Jane Mickatavage, Janis Solomon, Peter Larr.

Excused: Rozz Larr, Susan Cicelsky, Pat McGunagle

Pending Member: Ms. ManLai Cheng

- 1) Richard Propper advised commission members not present at the 10/4 meeting as to the latest ruling from the Westchester Human Rights Commission as to their procedure for accepting cases. Mr. Propper advised the commissioners that, per George Latimer, the current ruling is correct, but that he also is in disagreement with the interpretation. Further, he suggests the City of Rye Human Rights Commission be the ones to initiate legislative change, with his help, to correct/change the ruling/law. He also indicated that best results would be achieved after the elections. Commission members agreed to Mr. Latimer's suggestion as to timing, and further agreed to take up the issue at the November meeting.
- 2) Richard Propper offered the suggestion to give the annual Human Rights Commission Award to the members of the City of Rye Fire Dept. that participated in disaster relief in connection with the 9/11/01 tragedy. Further discussion indicated that it would be difficult to single out only the Fire Dept., since many citizens of Rye were involved, in various ways, in disaster relief operations. The consensus was that the award would be given to the "...members of the City of Rye community..." who had, in fact, participated in relief efforts, without singling out any group in particular. Mr. Propper and Susan Cicelsky were to finalize wording, etc.
- 3) Confirmation of the topic selection for the first program to be taped by RCTV was completed. The selected topic to be "Why a Commission on Human Rights in the City of Rye". The date of 10/22/01 was also, after some last minute review of optional days, confirmed for the actual taping.
- 4) A preliminary discussion of the nature of the two pending inquiries to the Commission that have been assigned to Pat McGunagle and Jane Mickatavage was entertained. Options and initial steps and procedure were exchanged. Both commissioners directly involved to report to the commission at the next meeting as to progress, etc.
- 5) Peter Larr confirmed that current activity on affordable housing by the City Council has come to a halt due to election considerations. Possibility of action after election day to be reviewed at the November meeting.
- 6) Meeting adjourned at 9:29PM.

Minutes submitted by:
Fred Penichet

City of Rye Human Rights Commission

August 23rd 2001 Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Richard Propper, Jane Mickitavage, Pat McGunagle, Fred Penichet.
Excused: Nancy Steed. Absent: Janis Solomon, Peter Larr, Roz Larr, Jan Pierce, Susan Cicelsky. Guests: William Goldstein, Ann Hoskins.

Old Business-

- 1) Meeting opened with the approval of the minutes of the June 27th 2001 meeting.
- 2) Richard Propper indicated he would meet with Susan Cicelsky soon to finalize the compilation of past winners of the Rye HRC Human Rights award, for final preparation of the plaque to hang in City Hall.
- 3) Confirmed Corporation Counsel's request to cull the HRC records that are to be preserved. Richard Propper confirmed that the commission should keep the info/records associated with "active" work handy, pending completion.
- 4) Members present discussed the ongoing process of creating affordable housing in Rye. Discussion included the possibility of the former Rye Nursery land as being considered for affordable housing. Previous positions indicated by (present) members of the commission revisited.
- 5) Guest William Goldstein presented the outline of his plan to create a trained crew for video programming at Rye Community Television (RCTV, the cable local access television station) that would be used for creating future Rye HRC shows. The outline represents Mr. Goldstein's effort to earn credit towards his becoming an Eagle Scout. Precise planning, goals and procedure were described in a written handout of the plan, distributed to the members. An implementation timeline was discussed, with mid-September being suggested. A target of 2 to three shows by year's end was put forth by Richard Propper.
- 6) Jane Mickitavage formally presented the resume of a replacement candidate (Ms. Mae Lee Chen) for Lindsay Friedman, the outgoing student representative on the Rye HRC. The candidate's credentials were reviewed by members present. Subject to confirmation of the candidate's citizenship status, consideration for membership will be discussed at a future meeting.

New Business-

- 1) Richard Propper advised he and Janis Solomon would begin to sort through current files for prospective nominees for the 2001 Rye HRC Human Rights Award, and would be preparing the press release for nominations at random from City of Rye residents, to appear in the Gannett and other newspapers.
- 2) Attendance policy was briefly discussed, with an eye towards indicating in the bylaws of the commission (if not already so noted) specific basic attendance requirements. Future discussion to determine guidelines/requirements. Fred Penichet suggested a rotation in the meeting day of the week, to accommodate members' schedules.
- 3) A memo from Nancy Steed to Richard Propper presenting 10 possible topics for future HRC programming on RCTV was distributed to members present. A brief

discussion and review of same followed, with reference to preparation by William Goldstein of the new filming crew at RCTV.

4) Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 PM.

Minutes submitted by:

Fred Penichet

City of Rye Human Rights Commission

June 27th, 2001 Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Fred Penichet, Peter Larr, Jane Mickatavage, Pat McGunagle. Excused: Richard Propper. Absent: Janis Solomon, Roz Larr, Jan Pierce, Susan Cicelsky, Nancy Steed.

Meeting opened with the approval of the minutes of the May 24th 2001 meeting. Due to only four members of the commission being present, Fred Penichet indicated that he would give a brief report, based on notes received from Richard Propper, on specific items on the agenda with regards to both Old and New Business, with further action on same being postponed until future meetings. See attachment for content of notes from Mr. Propper.

The only discussion with regards to any of the topics involved the Affordable Housing issue. Peter Larr briefly asserted that, in his opinion, the fact that the City Council will be looking into/acting on the issue in the immediate future indicates that there might be additional "political" considerations that might delay or otherwise affect a timely search for and procurement of local affordable housing. He expressed concern that commission input might be disregarded or dismissed by the Council.

Pat McGunagle indicated that the commission should continue whatever efforts are required to further the cause of Affordable Housing in Rye, and should do so in joint cooperation with the City Council. He indicated the commission's work should not be influenced by any other "agenda" that might be suggested by the Council.

The members present were also advised of the upcoming surprise presentation by the commission to its outgoing student representative, Lindsey Friedman, of a proclamation honoring her work on the commission by the City Council. Thanks to Roz Larr, the presentation is to take place at the Council's meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 18th 2001.

The members present also indicated that William Goldstein should proceed with assembling a crew of individuals to tape future shows for the commission on RCTV.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Minutes submitted by:

Fred Penichet

**City of Rye – Commission on Human Rights
Minutes of Meeting - February 22, 2001**

Present: Richard Propper (Chairperson), Susan Cicelsky, Roz Larr, Peter Larr, Pat McGuanagle, Nancy Steed

Excused: Fred Penichet, Janice Pierce

Absent: Jan Solomon

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM.

Additional Members to the Commission: Richard Propper has received the resumes of the prospective new members and their names have been submitted to the City Council for approval. If approved, the new members of the Commission would be: Pat McGuanagle, Lindsay Freeman (the student representative, who would name a student to replace her when she graduates), Susan Cicelsky, and Jane Mickatavage. When/if they become members of the commission, we will have our full contingency of 9 members – i.e. the aforementioned names plus Richard Propper, Fred Penichet, Jan Solomon, Janice Pierce, and Roz Larr (who is the liason to the City Council). Both Atsuko Kishida and Nancy Steed are unofficial members of the Commission.

Westchester County Commission on Human Rights: Richard Propper announced that there is a new Executive Director of the Westchester Commission on Human Rights. Her name is Allison Greene and she would be very interested in coming to our next meeting. She is currently reviewing the laws and procedures for the Westchester Commission and would like to become more familiar with them before attending our meeting. She indicated that our commission was one of the very few (if any) active ones in the county. *Peter Larr* is going to contact her and may be a liason with her in helping us clarify the appropriate procedures for the Rye Commission to follow.

Affordable Housing: George Latimer is not able to attend our meetings due to a conflict on the 4th Thursday of the month. He suggested we have someone (or several people?) meet with him to discuss affordable housing and then report back to our commission. *Peter Larr and Pat McGuanagle* offered to meet with him.

Guest Speakers: Richard mentioned several people who might be guest speakers at our meetings (e.g. School personnel, police, etc.). *Richard Propper* is going to speak with the new Commissioner to ask who might be good to come. Some felt that John Wood, the current Youth Officer (as of this school year) and on-going DARE officer, might be a good choice if he did not feel it would compromise his confidentiality with the students.

See next page

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Human Rights Award: Susan Cicelsky has been going through past minutes and working to identify who has received the award in past years. It appears that the award started in 1981, but awards were not given every year. Richard Propper also had some names to add to the list after speaking with some people. Susan will continue to work on this so that we can have the plaque engraved to hang at City Hall as soon as possible. A press release was given to the Rye Record asking help from people to fill in the blanks if they knew the recipients and the year they were given the award.

Record Keeping: Richard Propper and Fred Penichet are continuing to work toward organizing a permanent file to keep the records and minutes of the City of Rye Commission on Human Rights. It appears that there isn't a place at City Hall to keep the files, but even if that were the case, perhaps the files could be transferred from President to President. It was felt that there is a definite need for a better system than the current ineffective one.

Video: The Commission indicated some interest in doing another video for cable TV. Some possible subjects were discussed, including more on "entitlement", religious diversity, domestic violence, sexual orientation, and sexual harassment. The group decided that sexual harassment would be the next video and some different approaches were discussed. *Nancy Steed* again will write and cast the video; *Richard Propper* will check with RCTV to see if we can get the studio on the night of April 18th (Wednesday) or April 19th (Thursday). *Lindsay Friedman* will be asked if she would arrange for the camera crew and technical needs, and *Janice Pierce* may be asked to arrange for the panel again. *Richard Propper* will moderate the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM (and all retreated into the snow!).

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Steed
Acting Recorder

Minutes
of the Commission on Human Rights Meeting
January 25, 2001

Present: Richard Propper (Chairperson), Roz Larr, Peter Larr, Lindsay Friedman, Susan Cicelsky, Fred Penichet, Janice Pierce, and Nancy Steed.

Absent: Jan Solomon

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM. The minutes were approved after Roz Larr stated that the City Council is on record as supportive of efforts to continue exploring the possibility of affordable housing in Rye.

THE VIDEO: There was discussion about the upcoming video scheduled for January 30, 2001. The subject will be Economic Diversity in Rye, and a draft of the vignette was distributed by *Nancy Steed* who informed the Commission that Jim McGrath of Rye, and Staci Swedeen from Sleepy Hollow were volunteering their time to make the video for the Human Rights Commission. *Janice Pierce* agreed to help coordinate the panel for the discussion that follows the vignette. (Richard Propper will moderate, and there will be four panelists). Several possibilities were considered: Lauren Daniels (to be contacted by Nancy Steed), a student (to be contacted by Lindsay Friedman), Chris (or Meg) Stackpole (to be contacted by Susan Cicelsky), Cathi Propper (to be contacted by Richard Propper), and possibly Peggy Peters (to be contacted by Janice Pierce). Back-ups for the panel that evening are: Janice Pierce, Roz Larr and Susan Cicelsky.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD PLAQUE: Richard Propper spoke with people at City Hall and it was agreed that there will be a plaque hung in City Hall with the names of people who have been recipients of the Human Rights Award. The feeling was that we should include names from previous years to the extent that they can be determined. *Susan Cicelsky* agreed to work on this project and anyone who knows recipients and the year they got the award, should let Susan know. Some of the names remembered were: Doug Carey (2000), Kate Loree (we think 1999 or 1998), Don Dennis ('98 or '99), Nancy Steed (1997 – and also 1981). Others believed to have received the award are: Lucy Pedersen and Rabbi Rothman, plus possibly Lester Mae Brown and someone from Helping Hands. Richard Propper will put a notice in the Rye Record asking people to contact him if they know of additional recipients and the year they got the award. Also, he will call Jim Shea who served on the Commission for many years.

MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMISSION: It was confirmed that current "official" members on the Commission are: Richard Propper, Fred Penichet, Jan Solomon, and Janice Pierce. Roz Larr is the City Council liason; Atsuko Kishida and Nancy Steed are ex-officio members. Proposed members who have submitted resumes and indicated their interests are: Starr Rexdale (Richard Propper will speak with her again) and Peter Larr. Lindsay Friedman and Susan Cicelsky were asked to submit resumes, although Susan said she would be happy to work with the Commission without being an official member in order to allow more people to participate. Additional prospective members to be contacted and asked about their interest and availability are: Jane Mickatavage (Nancy Steed will speak to her); Pat McGunagle (Peter Larr will speak with him), Kim Nixon (Susan Cicelsky and Lindsay Friedman will contact her), and Laura Parent (Richard Propper will contact her). Those who are interested will be asked to submit a resume. At this point, Richard Propper is going to send recommendations to the City Council to appoint the following people: Peter Larr, Lindsay Friedman, and Starr Rexdale (after speaking with her and confirming her interest and availability). Other names will be submitted in the future until we reach our full 9 person "official" membership (plus ex-officios and the City

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Council liason). Lindsay Friedman said she would be happy to recommend a student for the Commission next year to replace her when she graduates. Richard will speak with Jan Solomon regarding her interest and availability for remaining on the Commission.

PROCEDURES (FOR DEALING WITH POTENTIAL COMPLAINTS BROUGHT TO THE COMMISSION): There was some discussion about what procedures we have in place for dealing with complaints and what is needed. It was established that we would ask the Westchester County Commission on Human Rights to send us their official complaint forms. Then *Susan Cicelsky and Peter Larr* will review the materials and procedures and report back to our Commission so we can determine what procedures and forms our Commission will use in the event a complaint is brought to our attention (it is likely to be the same form that is used by the county). Susan and Peter also will work on a cover letter or information sheet that explains the mandate and/or guidelines for the City of Rye Human Rights Commission so there will be no confusion for the Commission or person raising a concern as to what we can or cannot do if/when something comes before the Commission.

RECORD KEEPING: Richard had a discussion with Susan Morrison about where records for the Human Rights Commission might be kept. It is the Commission's concern that these records should be kept at City Hall rather than passed informally from chairperson to chairperson; however, evidently there is no place to keep them at City Hall so the situation is left unresolved as of now. There was some discussion about whether the information might be scanned and put on CDs for more compact and organized storage. There are not immediate plans to do that.

OTHER POSSIBLE PROJECTS: We briefly touched on other possible directions for the Commission to pursue such as schools, affordable housing, more TV programming, etc. However, with a limited number of people on the Commission, it is difficult to take on too many tasks.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy R. Steed

Nancy R. Steed

**CITY OF RYE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Minutes, 9/28/2000 Meeting

In Attendance: Richard Propper, Janice Solomon, Mott Peek, Nancy Steed, Susan Cicelsky, Fred Penichet, Lindsey Friedman. **Guests:** John Zuroski, Chevon Fuller, Starr Roxdale, Connie Viana.

AGENDA

- 1) Call to order, introduction of members and guests.
- 2) Approval of minutes, March 21st 2000
- 3) Reports- Richard Propper indicated various individuals continue to be under consideration for membership in the Commission. Discussed feedback on TV shows and presented taped excerpts from individuals who called him to express their views on the shows. Members entertained various suggestions for future skits/shows (Religion, Anti-Semitism, Gay Teens, Physical Attributes, among some).
- 4) Mott Peek report on neighboring Human Rights Commissions was put aside for a future meeting pending development and additional information from newly formed Westchester County Human Rights Commission.
- 5) Holiday Window Painting Contest and the Human Rights component discussed (this component reinstated this year). Richard Propper and Fred Penichet to judge the work on Sunday 10/22/00.
- 6) Human Rights Commission Award- press release scheduled for 9/30 presented, various candidates and procedure discussed. New arrangement for plaque in lobby of City Hall with names, as opposed to individual plaque being given to recipient was proposed, under consideration. Fred Penichet and Janis Solomon to review nominations as received, for a determination by 10/29/00.
- 7) Commission Members reviewed potential guests for future meetings (Ann Spaeth, Jim Kenny, Edward Shine).
- 8) Guests John Zuroski and Chevon Fuller updated Commission members on the latest status and development of the Westchester County Human Rights Commission. Part of the current legal arrangement and powers of the WCHRC were explained. The current procedure for complaints, jurisdiction of and interaction between the new WCHRC and local Human Rights Commissions was discussed. Proposal for

“summit” of local HRC’s to be sponsored by the WHRC in late or mid- November 2000 was entertained.

- 9) New provision and procedure for complaints to the City of Rye HRC was briefly discussed.**
- 10) Richard Propper advised the Commission that a potential complaint by former member and chairman of the Commission, Mr. James Hakanjin, was no longer being considered. Per Mr. Propper, Mr. Hakanjin had “verbally withdrawn the request to go forward” with the complaint, and that Mr. Hakanjin advised he “would go in another direction”, and the Commission did not need to entertain the request any further.**
- 11) Next meeting dates of 10/26/00 and 11/30/00 agreed to by the members, meeting was adjourned.**

Submitted by: Fred Penichet 10/18/00

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

MONDAY, MARCH 16TH, 1992

MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM

8:00PM

AGENDA

- 1- Call to order
- 2- Approval of minutes: February 10th, 1992 meeting
- 3- Old Business:
 - (a) report from Housing Committee
 - (b) Americans with Disabilities Act
 - (c) Rye employment procedures update
 - (d) other
- 4- New Business:
 - (a) from the commission members
- 5- Adjournment

NOTE

Items (b) and (c) under Old Business will undoubtedly necessitate a good deal of discussion. It is anticipated that City Manager, Frank Culross will be in attendance.

Because of this, it may be necessary to make some adjustments to the agenda at the time of the meeting.

The Chairman very much appreciates your cooperation and understanding and assures you that no item on the agenda will be omitted.

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

MONDAY, APRIL 22ND, 1991

CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

8:00 PM

AGENDA

- 1- Call to order
- 2- Approval of minutes of meeting on March 25th, 1991
- 3- Old Business:
 - (a) report on H/R code change
 - (b) report from Awards Committee
 - (c) report from Housing Committee
 - (d) other/correspondence report
- 4- New Business:
 - (a) Domicile Study of those who may need assistance in an emergency as suggested by Rye Association for the Handicapped
 - (b) other
- 5- Adjournment

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

MONDAY, MARCH 25TH, 1991

MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM

8:00 PM

AGENDA

- 1- Call to order
- 2- Approval of minutes of February 25th, 1991 meeting
- 3- Old Business:
 - (a) report on H/R code amendment
 - (b) report from Awards Committee (date)
 - (c) report from Housing Committee
 - (d) other
- 4- New Business:
 - (a) Guests: Rye Association for the Handi-capped. President Kate Loree, Vice President Shirley A. Hollis
 - (a-1) general discussion
 - (a-2) National Organization on Disability membership proposal by Mayor Ross
 - (a-3) "Welcome to My World": dispel myths
 - (b) Bias-challenging project
 - (c) other
- 5- Adjournment

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 1990

AGENDA

- 1- Call to order
- 2- Approval of Minutes of September 10th, 1990 meeting
- 3- Guest: Mr. Frank Culross, City Manager
- 4- Old Business:
 - (a) Housing Committee Report - Jim Shea
 - (b) Awards Committee Report - Jan Becker
 - (c) Discrimination Law extension - R. Propper
 - (d) Future Guest Mr. Dean Flood, Principal Rye High School - November 14th
"Prejudice Puzzle" update from R.A.P.
 - (e) "Bells Across America" conclusion
 - (f) "Acceptance of Differences" - Jim Shea
(Halloween window painting)
- 5- New Business:
 - (a) Samaritan House
 - (e) letters from: Mr. Anthony Santoro
American Legion Rye Post
 - (f) other
- 6- Adjournment

JWC

RYE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING September 25, 1989

Members Present: Janet Becker, John Casey, Kay Frank,
Ruth Merkatz, Richard Propper,
Chairperson Daniel Schrank, and James A. Shea

1. The City of Rye Human Rights Commission accepted with regret the resignation of Mrs. Audrey Ruben. Mrs. Ruben's tenure on the Commission was marked with profound interest, insight, and active participation.
2. Richard Propper will write to the Rye Golf Club Manager requesting a specific date for the completion of facilities for the handicapped at the Rye Golf Club. Copies of Mr. Propper's letter will be forwarded to Rye City Council members, the City Manager, City Planner, and the Rye City Corporation Counsel.
3. Copies of the Charter of the Human Rights Commission were distributed to Commission members. The Charter will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Rye Human Rights Commission.
4. Members will bring guidelines for the Human Rights Award to the next meeting.
5. J. Shea will write to Police Commissioner Schembri concerning the incident of anti-Semitism in the City of Rye reported in the DAILY ITEM.
6. Chairperson Schrank will write to the principal of Rye High School expressing the interest and services of the Rye Human Rights Commission with respect to the committee that has been established to:
 Create a pervasive spirit that nurtures a
 respect for the dignity and worth of all people.
7. The Minutes of the June 5, 1989 meeting were approved as submitted.
8. On motion the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for October 23rd.

Prepared by James A. Shea

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL MEETING - MARCH 3, 1986

PRESENT: Chairman Peter Garth, Jan Becker, Ruth Markatz, Richard Propper, Audrey Ruben, Ethel Schelz, James A. Shea, and Nolan Thrope.

1. The Chairman announced that the minutes of the last meeting would be discussed at our next meeting.
2. Nolan Thrope reported that the Rye Golf Club has been authorized by the Rye City Council to install a ramp for the handicapped at the Rye Golf Club.

He also reported that no funds had been provided and no date had been established for the installation of the ramp. Mr. Thrope will report again on this subject at the next meeting of the Human Rights Council.

3. There was discussion of the pre-kindergarten program at Rye Recreation, and its relationship to the Human Rights Council. ~~Ruth Markatz~~ agreed to report to the Council at its next meeting with reference to the following points:

- A. Why the pre-kindergarten Program at Rye Recreation was discontinued.
- B. Some observations as to whether the need for pre-kindergarten services is being satisfactorily satisfied by existing programs in the City of Rye.

4. There was discussion concerning the possibility of a Human Rights Day and the activities which might comprise such an event. Among the topics discussed were:
 - A. Possible involvement of Rye Schools.
 - B. A speaker who could draw an audience.
 - C. The format of a Rye Human Rights Day Program.
 - D. The possible involvement of the Rye Youth Council Players.
 - E. A tentative date - May 17.

Council members agreed to report back at the next meeting on the various topics assigned to them: the availability of speakers, the availability of the Rye Youth Council Players, and Rye School participation.

5. The next meeting of the Human Rights Council is scheduled for April 14, 1986.
6. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by
James A. Shea

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL MEETING - MARCH 3, 1986

PRESENT: Chairman Peter Garth, Jan Becker, Ruth Markatz, Richard Propper, Audrey Ruben, Ethel Schelz, James A. Shea, and Nolan Thrope.

1. The Chairman announced that the minutes of the last meeting would be discussed at our next meeting.
2. Nolan Thrope reported that the Rye Golf Club has been authorized by the Rye City Council to install a ramp for the handicapped at the Rye Golf Club.

He also reported that no funds had been provided and no date had been established for the installation of the ramp. Mr. Thrope will report again on this subject at the next meeting of the Human Rights Council.

3. There was discussion of the pre-kindergarten program at Rye Recreation, and its relationship to the Human Rights Council. Ruth Markatz agreed to report to the Council at its next meeting with reference to the following points:
 - A. Why the pre-kindergarten Program at Rye Recreation was discontinued.
 - B. Some observations as to whether the need for pre-kindergarten services is being satisfactorily satisfied by existing programs in the City of Rye.

4. There was discussion concerning the possibility of a Human Rights Day and the activities which might comprise such an event. Among the topics discussed were:
 - A. Possible involvement of Rye Schools.
 - B. A speaker who could draw an audience.
 - C. The format of a Rye Human Rights Day Program.
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 - E. A tentative date - May 17.

Council members agreed to report back at the next meeting on the various topics assigned to them: the availability of speakers, the availability of the Rye Youth Council Players, and Rye School participation.

5. The next meeting of the Human Rights Council is scheduled for April 14, 1986.
6. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by
James A. Shea

Human Rights Commission, Inc., New York

Minutes of Meeting, April 14, 1968 - City Hall, Room 100

Members present: Peter Dinko, Chairman, Richard Propper, Member at Large, Helen Lippincott, Member at Large, Helen Thayer

1. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with a correction, and will be forwarded to the City Council.

Nolan Thayer reported that Sandra McGuire has started a pre-school play school. He was discussed it with Bill Turner, Principal of the City School, who is most enthusiastic, and has permitted access facilities to be used by it during the summer. Nolan will study further and report back to the Commission, especially in regard to whether the needs of all ethnic groups are being met by this program.

2. Peter read a letter from Harry Dunning, Manager of the Eye Blind Club, saying that the ramp for the handicapped which we had asked for is on the list of needed facilities, but will cost from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and therefore will have to wait pending a grant or contribution; access is now available, and only for those who request it, but on a temporary basis.

Mort Siegel stated that the Club must demand better access, as the temporary ramp does not qualify for the law, and is therefore discriminatory; Mort would like to write Mr. Dunning, asking for clarification. Peter gave a copy of the letter to the City Council and the Eye Rotary Club following a response to Mort's letter.

A question then arose concerning other public buildings, such as City Hall, the Post Office, Police Station, schools, etc. Peter will check on these, starting with Kate Loree (of the Eye Committee for the Handicapped).

3. Peter started the discussion on holding a "Human Rights Day". The previous date chosen, May 17th, was changed to July 4th, and our activity to be coordinated with the City Independence Day celebration- to which will be added, this year, an emphasis on "Liberty" (with the renovation of the Statue of Liberty, as the theme). Peter reported that so far, our efforts to line up a speaker have not been successful.

Richard Propper suggested that school children could decorate shop windows in Rye, as they do on Halloween; this would not be a deterrent to shopping as July 4th is a legal holiday, and the work could be done on posters to attach to the windows, rather than paint on the window itself. Nolan and Richard will find out school schedules and summer programs, and discuss with the Rye Chamber of Commerce; also, Peter will inquire what the City is planning.

4. Audrey Rubin is chairman of the annual awards committee. It is now time to solicit suggestions. Several names were mentioned, and will be submitted to the Committee, which will recommend and the Human Rights Commission will vote for the nomination.

5. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be May 12, 1968.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Lippincott
Helen Lippincott

Human Rights Commission

Minutes of Meeting, September 23, 1986- City Hall, Rye, NY- 8pm

Members present: Peter Garth, Chairman, Nolan Thrope, Mort Siegel, Helen Lippincott

1. Minutes of the June meeting were approved.
2. All Committees were reappointed.
3. Presentation of the Human Rights Award for 1986 will be made on September 27th, at 12:00 noon, at the Festival on the Green. Chairman Peter Garth will make the presentation to Anne Pastor, with a brief comment on her outstanding work on behalf of the Senior Citizens of Rye. There will be PR on this, in the Gannett paper and Rye Chronicle.
4. Concerning the Rye Golf Club ramp: Mr Richard Gardella, City Council Attorney, asked for a letter from the Human Rights Commission; Mort Siegel will write the letter.
5. Peter asked for opinion on whether we should plan a Human Rights Day this year. If so, we should start now, so members should think about it before the next meeting.
6. Ethel Sheltz has resigned from the Commission.
7. A date was not set for the next meeting; Peter will notify us. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Z. Lippincott

Helen Z. Lippincott, Secretary

Human Rights Commission of Rye, New York

Minutes of meeting, September 17, 1984

Present: Kaplan, Clarke, Merkatz, Thrope, Siegel, Garth, Toombs, Becker, Smith, Shaw, Schelz, Lippincott

1. The meeting came to order at 8:07 pm. Minutes were accepted as corrected.
2. There were no subcommittee reports from the summer. Nolan Thrope volunteered to be Chairman of the committee on Human Relations.
3. The Rye Recreation Department has requested that we sponsor with them the continuation of the Rye Pre-Kindergarten Program (with perhaps a name-change which implies less formal education). Carol Toombs explained the request, and the program, which she initiated in 1965.

At that time, the program was suggested by the Rye Recreation Commission, and co-sponsored by us, as an informal recreational and social experience for pre-school children, with parental involvement, at low cost. Fees are at a sliding scale, and the program is self-supporting. There is a mix of children from low and middle income families, with a sprinkling of more affluent. The program fills a need in Rye.

There was no contract or clear agreement at this time with those who ran the program, as it was not a normal function of the Recreation Commission, nor was it "Education" by the State; it was okayed by Commissioner Ralph Damiano. It is now time to work out an annual contract, for maintenance, heat, light, insurance, etc., as well as a statement of services provided, and to clarify the program's legal status.

The Human Rights Commission voted to send a letter, written by Carol, agreeing to cosponsor the program with the Recreation Commission.

4. Ed Kaplan read a letter from the Human Rights Commission of New York City requesting the structure, composition and evaluation of the Rye Human Rights Commission, together with a copy of our annual report.

Discussion followed on the possible use- or misuse- of such information. It was mentioned that the New York City group is well-known for being strongly political, ethnic, militant and aggressive; that New York City has special statutes not necessarily those of other cities or the State; that statistics are often used to justify additional funds, or self-serving purposes; and that there was no benefit, but possible harm to Rye by acceding to the request. Mort Siegel moved that the report not be sent, and the request not be answered. The motion was approved 8 to 3, with one abstention.

5. Discussion followed on Civil Rights in Rye, especially concerning employment. It was noted that the Federal Government has records of all who employ 20 or more, and that Title 7 of 1964 guarantees against discrimination by race, sex color or creed- handicapped added in 1974. New York State also requires equal pay for jobs of comparable worth.
6. Dolores Clarke, Chairman, reported on the Ad Hoc Committee. Saturday, March 16th was suggested as Human Awareness Day. Mort Siegel suggested a contest for all Rye schools on "What Human Rights means to me", expressed in pictures by lower grades, a sentence or two by 3rd and 4th graders, and a brief essay by 5th and 6th graders. Nolan Thrope would like to add older grades. Helen Lippincott prefers the theme: "What is my responsibility for the rights of others?". Carol Toombs mentioned that principals and social studies teachers would appreciate advance notice, in order to be able to cooperate effectively. The Ad Hoc Committee will meet October 17th at Peter Garth's.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45, with the next meeting scheduled for November 5th.

Respectfully submitted, *Helen Lippincott*
Helen Lippincott, Secretary

CRK.

Human Rights Commission of Rye, New York

Minutes of meeting May 7, 1984

Present:

Ed Kaplan, Chairman, Ruth Merkatz, Ethel Schelz, Nolan Thrope, Peter Garth, Jim Shea, Carol Toombs, Helen Lippincott, Morton Siegel, Dolores Clarke.

Chairman Ed Kaplan brought the meeting to order at 8:15, and suggested that, as so many members would be away this summer, that in the absence of pressing business the next meeting be postponed until September. The Committee agreed.

Mr Kaplan attended the City Council hearing on Senior Citizens' Housing, which discussed the possibility of condemnation of Osborn Home property on Theall Road. No action was taken at this meeting, as the City is divided on the advisability of the project. Ed reminded us that the Human Rights Commission passed a resolution on February 7, 1983, favoring the project- not the site, but the need- for a 100-unit building, and advised the City Council to "take all means" to make it possible.

Discussion followed; the resolution is not binding on this present Commission, therefore we will let it stand unless we feel that human rights are violated.

Ed then told of his day in Albany, at the day session of the New York State Commission of Human Rights- plus Civil Rights. The Chairman of the Commission, Haskell Lazere, in his address noted that there has been a 20% increase in complaints on discrimination, and at the same time a marked lack of funding. After the morning speakers, who included Roger Wilkins of the NAACP, there were workshops on Housing, Sex Discrimination, etc. Ed came away with the feeling that each area must be worked on locally, trying to work out the problems for ourselves by informal means, rather than an arbitrator.

In answer to a question, Ed said that there have been no formal complaints in Rye to the Commission, though equal pay for women has been an issue in towns lately. Carol Toombs noted that although we are not presently faced with actual discrimination, we should be concerned with prevention.

The Commission then discussed the question of what we can do to foster Human Rights in Rye. At the last meeting, an Ad Hoc Committee was formed, with Ed, Peter Garth, Dolores Clarke and Helen Lippincott as members, suggesting a Human Rights Awareness Day, perhaps at the Library, with materials, film, a speaker, panel discussions. It was suggested that we bring some or all of these materials to already scheduled events, especially those which might include schools, YMCA, garden clubs, etc.- or tie into some such institution as the Hallowe'en window-painting, with Human Rights as a theme. This would result in awareness of Human Rights, rather than promoting ourselves or the Commission. We are an advisory Board, not an activist one (The point was made, however, that we can take evidence, and could go to the State Commission if necessary). Mort Siegel suggested that we ask the schools how we can help promote awareness, and Peter Garth noted a possible theme of "Non-violence". The Rye Youth Council might help, possibly using their young actors. Mr Thrope asked if the State Commission has promotional material. As our charge is for education, perhaps we should have pamphlets, a statement in the papers. Carol Toombs pointed out that the City sends mailings, which might include our statement. Ethel Schelz felt that

it would be more effective to aim our statement at adults rather than children.

The Ad Hoc Committee added the names of Mort Siegel and Jan Becker, and plans to meet on Wednesday, May 23rd, with members bringing a possible logo, slogan, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Lippincott

Helen Lippincott, Secretary

Human Rights Commission of Rye, New York

Minutes of Meeting- February 6, 1984

Present:

Ed Kaplan, Chairman, Dolores Clarke, Helen Lippincott, Peter Garth, Ruth Merkatz, Ethel Schelz, Jim Shea, Donna S. Smith, Nolan Thrope, Carol Toombs, Jan Becker

Mr Kaplan called the meeting to order, and the members introduced themselves. Mr Kaplan asked for volunteers for various positions. Helen Lippincott volunteered to be the Recording Secretary, and Dolores Clarke volunteered to be the Corresponding Secretary. Volunteers were also requested for various committees.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Members</u>
Employment	Peter Garth	Ed Kaplan
Handicapped	Horton Shaw	Ruth Merkatz Ethel Schelz Nolan Thrope
Housing	To be decided	Dolores Clarke Peter Garth Ethel Schelz
Sex Discrimination	To be decided	Dolores Clarke Ruth Merkatz Jim Shea Donna Smith
Community Relations	To be decided	Jim Shea Nolan Thrope Carol Toombs
Education	Jan Becker	Jim Shea Carol Toombs

Discussion focused on work and mandate of the Commission. Ms Toombs suggested that all members receive booklets which describe the authority of the Commission. Mr Kaplan will ask City Hall to send each member a packet. He explained he was not sure what complaints we would receive, and at times we need to initiate areas for investigation. Mr Garth felt a review of previous minutes would be helpful. Ms Toombs suggested we also review previous Annual Reports. Mr Kaplan suggested our Commission might sponsor forums on Human Rights for various schools. Mrs Schelz felt we should not restrict such forums to the schools. The P.T.A. was suggested as an organization to sponsor a forum.

Rye Human Rights Commission
Minutes for Meeting March 5, 1984

Present: Ed Kaplan, Chairman, Carol Toombs, Peter Garth, Jan Becker, Dolores Clarke, Horton Shaw, Ruth Merkatz, Helen Lippincott, Ethel Schelz, Donna Smith, Jim Shea (Absent: Nolan Thrope)

1. Minutes were approved as corrected.

2. Mr Kaplan announced a meeting of the State Department of Human Rights and Advisory Council on March 19th, at the Convention Center in Albany. The meeting will discuss local Human Rights Commissions, current issues, sharing of problems, development of programs, etc. Mr Kaplan will go, and Carol Toombs, Ruth Merkatz, Peter Garth and Dolores Clarke are interested in accompanying him. An item will be submitted to the Rye Chronicle concerning this meeting.

3. Committees were completed as follows:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Members</u>
Employment	Peter Garth	Ed Kaplan
Handicapped	Horton Shaw	Ruth Merkatz Ethel Schelz Nolan Thrope
Housing	Ethel Schelz	Dolores Clarke Peter Garth
Sex Discrimination	Donna Smith	Dolores Clarke Ruth Merkatz Jim Shea
Community Relations	To be decided	Jim Shea Nolan Thrope Carol Toombs Helen Lippincott
Education	Jan Becker	Jim Shea Helen Lippincott Carol Toombs

4. Mr Kaplan will write the Annual Report, for Herbert Blecker.

5. Mr Kaplan noted that the Human Rights Award has been given for the past four years, and asked for suggestions on this year's award. After discussion, it was moved and seconded that in the future it be awarded every other year, unless an outstanding candidate appears. This proposal was approved, 8 to 2.

6. Discussion followed on the frequency of this Commission's meetings, after which Mr Shaw propoed that in the absence of pressing business, we meet every other month. This motion was seconded by Mrs Toombs, and passed unanimously.

7. New business:

a. In response to a question, Mr Kaplan reported no update on the Senior Housing issue, which is still in litigation. We are in touch with the City on other housing problems, so that we can be informed before other "hot" issues surface.

b. In the absence of urgent business, Mr Kaplan suggested that the Commission might usefully spend time on a program to educate the public on Human Rights. Much discussion followed, including definition of the term "human rights", and several possibilities were mentioned, such as a speakers, films, panel discussions, a Human Rights Day this fall. A committee was formed, consisting of Mr Kaplan, Peter Garth, Dolores Clarke and Helen Lippincott, to report at the next meeting. Mar 7th

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF RYE, NEW YORK

Minutes of Meeting - February 6, 1984

Present:

Ed Kaplan, Chairman

Jan Becker

Dolores Clarke

Peter Garth

Ruth Merkatz

Ethel Schulz

Jim Shea

Donna S. Smith

Nolan Thrope

Carol Toombs

Mr. Kaplan called the meeting to order and the members introduced themselves. Mr. Kaplan asked for volunteers for various positions. Jan Becker volunteered to be the Recording Secretary, and Dolores Clarke volunteered to be the Corresponding Secretary. Volunteers were also requested for various committees.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Members</u>
Employment	Peter Garth	Ed Kaplan
Handicapped	Horton Shaw	Ruth Merkatz Ethel Schulz Nolan Thrope
Housing	to be decided	Dolores Clarke Peter Garth Ethel Schulz
Sex Discrimination	to be decided	Dolores Clarke Ruth Merkatz Jim Shea Donna Smith
Community Relation	to be decided	Jim Shea Nolan Thrope Carol Toombs
Education	Jan Becker	Jim Shea Carol Toombs

Discussion focused on work and mandate of the Commission. Ms. Toombs suggested that all members receive booklets which describe authority of the Commission. Mr. Kaplan will ask City Hall to send each member a packet. He explained he was not sure what complaints we would receive, and at times we need to initiate areas for investigation. Mr. Garth felt a review of previous minutes would be helpful. Ms. Toombs suggested we also review previous Annual Reports. Mr. Kaplan suggested our Commission might sponsor forums on Human Rights for various schools. Mrs. Schulz felt we should not restrict such forums to the schools. The P. T. A. was suggested as an organization to sponsor a forum.

Mr. Kaplan noted that every year we give a Human Rights Award to an outstanding member of the city. He questioned whether the award should be given every year. Carol Toombs reviewed prior thinking on this issue. Last Spring, the Commission generally felt a biennial award was best. Mr. Kaplan felt this issue would require further evaluation. Qualifications for the award are as follows:

1. A Rye resident or organization
2. Outstanding service in human rights
3. Members of the Commission are exempt from consideration.

It was noted that the Human Rights Commission was originally the Human Relations Commission, so that criteria for the award is sometimes confused with Human Relations.

Mr. Kaplan also questioned whether we should meet every month or every other month. He felt we should decide at the next meeting. Mr. Thrope asked for a review of both the award and frequency of meetings.

Other Items Discussed:

It was explained that our Commission only had the power to make recommendations to the City Council. Miss Smith asked for a listing of current commissions and members. Mr. Kaplan will obtain the listing for all members.

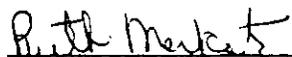
Mr. Garth asked if Osborne Home has ever been investigated for sex discrimination. Mrs. Toombs gave a brief history of the Home, but basically sex discrimination in the Home has never been challenged.

Ruth Merkatz requested that Annual Reports be mailed in advance of the next meeting so that members could review materials. Mr. Kaplan stated that he will also include a report on the private clubs in that packet.

Mrs. Toombs noted that hiring practices in the Police Department were investigated several years ago and presently Rye has two women and one Hispanic male making us one of the most integrated departments in Westchester.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 5th at 8p. m.

Respectfully submitted,


Ruth Merkatz

RYE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

June 13, 1983

A meeting of the Rye Human Rights Commission was held at 8:00 p.m. at Rye City Hall on June 13, 1983 pursuant to notice.

Present were members Becker, Blecker, Neale, Schelz, Shaw, Smith, Toombs and Westerman. Excused absences were Kaplan and Lashnitz. Absent, Kelly and Lavinsky.

Mr. Blecker chaired and Mr. Shaw recorded.

The Minutes of May 2, 1983 were approved.

The Annual Report (draft 6/7/83) was reviewed and approved after typo corrections.

The Commission then considered the Human Rights Award and after discussion of various candidates determined to make two (2) awards, one to Ralph Damiano and the other to Kate Loree.

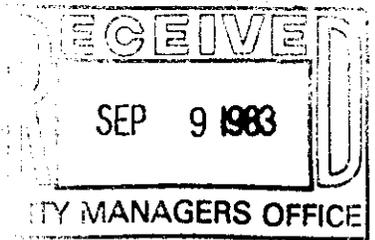
Chairman Blecker was to speak to Mr. Culross regarding the budget of the Award.

Members were assigned the following: Toombs to notify Loree; Blecker to notify Damiano; Neale to get plaques; Toombs to present the Awards 7/4/83; Becker to write the press release; Toombs to write the letters of commendations.

The next meeting will be September 12, 1983.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

H. Shaw



CITY OF RYE

RYE, NEW YORK 10580

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

To: COMMISSIONERS

From: HERB BLECKER

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be held on September 12, 1983 at 8:00 at Rye City Hall.

The agenda is as follows:

- Minutes
- Discussion of Human Rights Award
- New Business

Minutes of the last meeting are attached.

Herb Blecker

jm
cc: Rye City Clerk
Rye City Manager



CITY OF RYE

RYE, NEW YORK 10580

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

June 7, 1983

TO: COMMISSIONERS
FROM: HERB BLECKER

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be held on June 13, 1983 at 8:00PM at Rye City Hall.

The agenda is as follows:

- . Minutes
- . Consideration of annual Human Rights award
- . Committee Reports
- . Annual Report
- . New Business


Herb Blecker

HB:el

cc: Rye City Clerk
Rye City Manager ✓

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

May 2, 1983

A meeting of the Rye Human Rights Commission was held at 8:00PM at the Rye City Hall on May 2, 1983 pursuant to notice.

Present were members Blecker, Toombs, Schelz and Westerman. Excused absences: Becker, Kaplan, Lavinsky, Neale and Smith.

Mr. Blecker chaired and Mrs. Schelz recorded.

The minutes of the meeting of April 4, 1983 were approved.

The Commission then went into Executive Session to hear representatives from the Westchester Country Club (Mr. Eugene Flanagan and Mr. Jack Steinthal).

The Presentation of the Annual Rye Human Rights Award was discussed. John Neale and Jan Becker were designated as co-chairman and the other members of the Committee are Ed Kaplan, Carol Toombs and Ethel Schelz. A letter will be sent to the Community leaders requesting nominations and a press release will go out this week.

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be on June 13, 1983.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00PM.

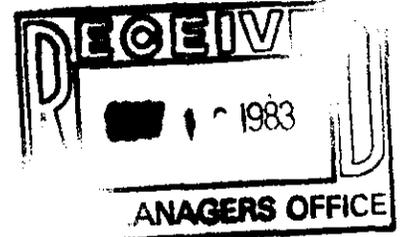
E. Schelz



CITY OF RYE

RYE, NEW YORK 10580

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



May 13, 1983

TO: COMMISSIONERS

FROM: HERB BLECKER

I enclose the minutes of the meeting of May 2, 1983.

Please note that our next meeting will be held on June 13, 1983 in order to give the award committee time to investigate and report on the nominees for the Human Rights award. Please mark your calendar accordingly.

Herb Blecker

HB:el
Enc.

cc: Rye City Clerk
Rye City Manager ✓

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

May 2, 1983

A meeting of the Rye Human Rights Commission was held at 8:00PM at the Rye City Hall on May 2, 1983 pursuant to notice.

Present were members Blecker, Toombs, Schelz and Westerman. Excused absences: Becker, Kaplan, Lavinsky, Neale and Smith.

Mr. Blecker chaired and Mrs. Schelz recorded.

The minutes of the meeting of April 4, 1983 were approved.

The Commission then went into Executive Session to hear representatives from the Westchester Country Club (Mr. Eugene Flanagan and Mr. Jack Steinthal).

The Presentation of the Annual Rye Human Rights Award was discussed. John Neale and Jan Becker were designated as co-chairman and the other members of the Committee are Ed Kaplan, Carol Toombs and Ethel Schelz. A letter will be sent to the Community leaders requesting nominations and a press release will go out this week.

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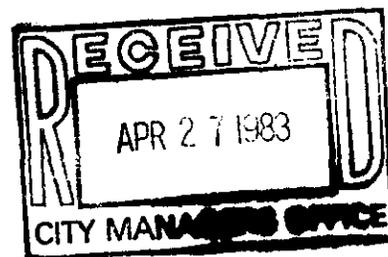


CITY OF RYE

RYE, NEW YORK 10580

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

April 22, 1983



TO: COMMISSIONERS

FROM: HERB BLECKER

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be held on May 2, 1983 at 8:00PM at Rye City Hall.

The agenda is as follows:

- . Minutes
- . Meeting with Eugene J.T. Flanagan, Esq., Secretary of the Westchester Country Club, a member of its Executive Committee and Chairman of its Legal Committee
- . Consideration of annual award
- . Committee Reports
- . New Business

Herb Blecker

HB:el

cc: Rye City Clerk
Rye City Manager ✓

RYE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

April 4, 1983

A meeting of the Rye Human Rights Commission was held at 8:00PM at the Rye City Hall on April 4, 1983 pursuant to notice.

Present were members, Becker, Blecker, Kaplin, Lashnits, Lavinsky, Neale, Schelz, Shaw, Smith and Westerman. Excused absence: Carol Toombs.

Mr. Blecker chaired and Mr. Shaw recorded.

The minutes of March 7, 1983 were approved.

Chairman Blecker then reported on a meeting of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York on the subject of discrimination which seems to conclude that distinctly private clubs were still immune. However, legislation has been and continues to be proposed to prohibit discrimination by private clubs that meet certain business criteria.

The Human Rights Commission then went on to executive session to hear Commandore Pierson and Mr. Keogh of the American Yacht Club.

After hearing Messrs. Pierson and Keogh the HRC determined that Chairman Blecker should again request the presence of the Westchester Country Club.

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be on May 2, 1983 at 8:00PM.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15PM.

H. Shaw

CHK

RYE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

February 7, 1983

A meeting of the Rye Human Rights Commission was held at 8:00 PM at the Rye City Hall on February 7, 1983 pursuant to notice.

Present were members Kaplan, Toombs, Becker, Lashnits, Lavinsky, Blecker, Schelz, Smith and Westerman.

Mr. Blecker chaired and Mr. Kaplan recorded.

Mr. Blecker read Dan Idzik's letter written to Reverend Don Howard setting forth certain arguments in opposition to the proposed senior citizen housing project.

Summary of Dan Idzik's argument was stated by Larry Lavinsky.

Discussion on merits of Senior Citizen Housing.

The Commission considered the following resolution proposed by E. Kaplan and seconded by L. Lavinsky:

The Rye Human Rights Commission, having considered the arguments both in favor of and opposed to a senior citizen housing project in the City of Rye, and in recognition of the demonstrated need of senior citizens for housing, as established by a survey conducted by the Rye Interfaith Council and independently confirmed by the City, hereby recommends and strongly urges that the City Council take all

necessary steps to implement and facilitate the construction of a 100 unit senior citizen apartment complex in the City of Rye, as proposed by the Rye Senior Citizen Housing Corporation, sponsor of the project.

The Commission unanimously adopted the resolution and decided to send a copy to the Mayor and City Council in the form of a letter.

Chairman Blecker urged all members of the Commission to attend Council meeting on February 16, 1983 to endorse these concepts.

Statement will also be sent to Daily Item and Rye Chronicle.

Herb Blecker discussed his letter written to American Yacht Club - no response yet (letter sent January 25).

Next meeting of Human Rights Commission will be on March 7, 1983.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Ed Kaplan



CITY OF RYE

RYE, NEW YORK 10580

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

January 28, 1983

To: COMMISSIONERS

From: HERB BLECKER

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be held on February 7, 1983 at 8:00 at Rye City Hall.

The agenda is as follows:

- . Minutes
- . Discussion of senior citizen housing
- . Committee Reports
- . New Business

Minutes of the last meeting are attached.

Herb Blecker

HB:lb
cc: Rye City Clerk

RYE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes - January 24, 1983

The Rye Human Rights Commission met in special session at 8 pm, at Rye City Hall, 24 January, 1983.

Those attending were Becker, Blecker (chairman), Kaplan, Lavinsky, Schelz and Smith. Excused were Kelly, Neale, Shaw, Toombs and Westerman.

Herb Blecker chaired and introduced new member Donna Smith.

Guests of the evening were Dan Idzik and Rev. Donald Howard. Dan Idzik presented his views.^{He is} head of the Citizens Committee which opposed senior housing on the Rye Rec site. Rev. Howard commented on behalf of the InterFaith Committee, sponsor of the senior housing project. Mr. Idzik stated that he was not expressing the views of the Citizens Committee at this meeting.

Observations on the need for senior housing, land acquisition, alternatives, % of Rye residents in the project, parking, etc. were presented.

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will take place at 8 pm, Feb. 7, City Hall, at which time a further discussion of senior housing and the position of the Human Rights Commission will take place. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janit Becker

RYE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

MINUTES -- January 10, 1983

A meeting of the Rye Human Rights Commission was held at 8:00 p.m. at the Rye City Hall on January 10, 1983 pursuant to notice.

Present were members Becker, Blecker (chairman), Kaplan, Lashnits, Lavinsky, Toombs and Westerman. Excused absences were members Kelly, Neale and Shaw.

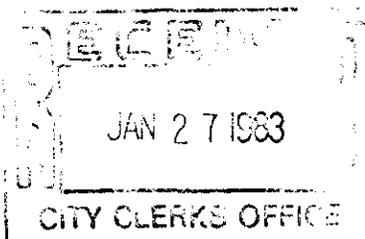
Mr. Blecker chaired and Mr. Lashnits recorded.

The minutes of the special meeting held on January 5 were approved as rendered.

Chairman Blecker then welcomed Reverend Donald Howard to present his views concerning the proposed senior citizen housing in Rye. The Reverend Howard gave a background and overview of the senior citizen housing issue, covering the need for senior citizen housing in Rye, a history of various attempts to fill this need, a search for appropriate sites, and an assessment of the current situation. Discussion followed.

After Reverend Howard left, it was decided that the Commission should meet with Mr. Dan Idzik of the Rye Citizens Committee to further consider the senior citizen issue. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

-- Tom Lashnits





CITY OF RYE

RYE, NEW YORK 10580

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

June 11, 1982

To: COMMISSIONERS

From: HERB BLECKER

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be held on June 21, 1982 at 8:00 at Rye City Hall.

The agenda is as follows:

- . Minutes
- . Selection of Human Rights Award recipient
- . Country Clubs
- . Senior Citizen Housing
- . Old Business
- . New Business

Minutes of the last meeting are attached.

Herb Blecker

HB:lb
cc: Rye City Clerk

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

MINUTES

May 3, 1982

ATTENDANCE

Herb Blecker, Carol Williams, Tom Lashnits, Jan Becker, David Westerman, Tim James, John Neale, Horton Shaw and Ed Kaplan.

Carol Toombs and Laura Kelly were excused.

Chairman Blecker opened the meeting by discussing the status of his invitations to Rye clubs to meet with the Commission. Apawamis Club President, Mr. William Vanneck, was unable to attend this meeting. However, he did say that he will come with Mr. William Cassin, the club's Membership Chairman, at a later date. The President of the Westchester Country Club could not be reached. Mr. Shaw contacted a Director of the Coveleigh Club in lieu of sending a letter. Shenorock Shore Club sent a letter which indicated that the Commission's letter had been referred to its legal committee. To continue our efforts to induce clubs to meet with the Commission, Tim James will draft a possible follow-up letter for consideration.

SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING

Carol Williams reported attending a hearing held by the City Council on April 21, 1982, on using a property owned by ITT on Theall Road. Reverend Howard spoke in favor of the project. He outlined a seemingly complete plan for the project. The property was originally sold by the Osborn Home to ITT.

Problems which exist with the home have to do with zoning problems in addition to some use restrictions placed on the property by the Osborn Home for a 40 year period when it was sold to ITT. Individuals' applications for the project would be made to HUD but at least 30% of the applications accepted and probably a substantial majority would be from the Rye area. After discussion, the City Council pressed zoning changes unanimously to allow the project to be built. However, the use restrictions and possibly other problems such as HUD financing requirements may prevent the project from being established for some time.

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

Four questions were addressed on the subject of the award. John Neale moved that the award be given biennially. The motion was defeated. The prevailing sentiment was that there were certainly an adequate number of deserving recipients and giving the award annually would help "establish" it. An additional question was whether Commission members should be allowed to make award nominations. The decision was that members could because they would be quite aware of deserving candidates. The third question was on the award voting technique. It was decided that the technique would be as follows: of the nominations received by the deadline, a vote would be taken to select the most deserving four nominations; then a vote would

be taken to select the most deserving two of the previous four nominations; then a vote would be taken to select the most deserving award nomination of the previous two after which a final vote would be taken to determine the third and fourth most deserving nominations left over from selecting the top two. The reason for setting up a preference order for nominations is to provide for the contingency that one or more of the most preferred nominations refused the award. A fourth question whether nominations of present Commission members will be accepted was decided in the negative. The award committee is to be composed of John Neale and Tom Lashnits as Co-Chairmen, Tim James, and Carol Toombs and Carol Williams if they accept.

John Neale



CITY OF RYE

RYE, NEW YORK 10580

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

April 26, 1982

To: COMMISSIONERS

From: HERB BLECKER

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be held on May 3, 1982 at 8:00 at Rye City Hall.

The agenda is as follows:

- . Minutes
- . Possible meeting with representatives of Apawamis Club
- . Senior citizen housing - report by Carol Williams
- . Human rights award - report by John Neale
- . Old Business
- . New Business

Minutes of the last meeting are attached.

Herb Blecker

HB:lb

cc: Rye City Clerk

The Rye Human Rights Commission met at the Rye City Hall on Monday, April 5, 1982 at 8 PM. Present, in addition to Chairman Blecker, were members C. Williams, J. Becker, T. James, M. Powell, C. Toombs, H. Shaw, J. Neale, E. Kaplan and D. Westerman. Excused: T. Lashnits.

Mr. Shaw was asked to be secretary of the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of March 1, 1982 were reviewed and on motion, duly made and passed, were approved.

The Commission then went into Executive Session to hear from two members of the Shenorock Shore Club.

The Commission then returned to regular session and the status of its inquiry into the practices of the Rye private clubs. Chairman Blecker reviewed the meeting with Mr. Coash of the Manursing Island Club on March 1 and then related the March 3 reply of the President of the Coveleigh Club (Mr. Carlucci) to the Commission's letter of February 8, 1982.

Mr. Shaw was requested to prepare a draft reply and in the meantime the Commission would proceed with other clubs.

Turning to Senior Citizen Housing, Carol Williams agreed to attend the next hearing of the Rye Zoning Commission, with another Commission member, understood to be scheduled later in the month.

Discussion of the Human Rights Award was postponed until the next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 3, 1982
at 8 PM at the City Hall.

Adjourned at 10:45 PM.

H. Shaw
Secretary of Meeting



CTR

CITY OF RYE

RYE, NEW YORK 10580

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

March 30, 1982

To: COMMISSIONERS
From: HERB BLECKER

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be held on April 5, 1982 at 8:00 at Rye City Hall.

The agenda is as follows:

- . Minutes
- . Discussion re Clubs
- . Senior citizen housing in Rye
- . Human rights award - report by John Neale
- . Old Business
- . New Business

Minutes of the last meeting are attached.

Herb Blecker

HB:lb
cc: Rye City Clerk

(over)

Present: Herb Blecker - Chairperson
Jan Becker
Tom Lashnits
Laura Kelly
John Neale
Carol Toombs
David Westerman
Carol Williams

Excused: Tim James
ED Kaplan
Mrs. Powell

The minutes of the February meeting were accepted with the following addition:

Carol Toombs suggested that the H.R. Commission make a statement favoring the senior citizens housing project to be discussed before the City Council this week. She also suggested a liaison between the Commission and the housing program. Following a discussion of this subject, a resolution was endorsed that "the Rye Human Rights Commission supports the concept of senior citizen housing in Rye." Our next meeting will include a discussion of this subject at which time Carol Williams will report on the City Council session. The next Commission meeting was scheduled for March 1.

Tom Coash from Manursing Island Club spoke to the Commission in Executive Session.

Regarding the Human Rights Award, John Neale suggested that the award be presented biannually. There was some discussion as to how often the award should be presented and then the discussion was tabled until the next meeting. John also questioned as to whether the Commission should be able to nominate? A pro view to this question was that a Commissioner is more likely to know an eligible candidate. On the other hand it was argued that the award would have more meaning if all the nominations came from outside the Commission. This discussion was also tabled until the next meeting. Also at the next meeting will be some information on the three Human Rights Awards presented in White Plains each year.

Herb reported on a discussion he had with Rabbi Rothman recently. The Rabbi reported that there was some vandalism at the Synagogue in February. The sign for the Synagogue was ripped down and destroyed.

The date of the next meeting was set for April 5.

Laura S. Kelly



CITY OF RYE

RYE, NEW YORK 10580

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

February 22, 1982

To: COMMISSIONERS

From: HERB BLECKER

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be held on March 1, 1982 at 8:00 at Rye City Hall.

The agenda is as follows:

- . Minutes
- . Meeting with representatives of Shenorock Club
- . Discussion of Human Rights Award
- . Committee Reports
- . Old Business
- . New Business

Minutes of the last meeting are attached.

Herb Blecker

HB:lb

cc: Rye City Clerk

Present: Herb Blecker, Chairperson
Jan Becker
Tim James
Laura Kelly
Tom Lashnits
Carol Toombs
David Westerman
Carol Williams

Excused: John Neale
Mrs. Powell

John Neale has requested changes in the minutes of the January meeting. As the changes were numerous, Mr. Blecker has made note of the corrections and will have the minutes prepared to reflect the same. These changes were discussed, modified and agreed upon by the Commission members present. Tim James also presented a correction to the November minutes. These changes were accepted by the Commission and Chairperson Blecker will incorporate the changes in a rewrite of the November minutes.

Regarding the Club issue, should the commission invite one member or members of several Clubs at a time to a Commission meeting. Carol Toombs suggests that perhaps the interviews of the membership committeemen could be done by one or two Commissioners at City Hall, during a Commission meeting. If the whole Commission interviews one Club at a time, perhaps by the end of the interviews we will be prejudging the last few Clubs. Herb felt that it would be difficult for a few Commission members to convey all the information given. The whole Commission would also probably generate more Questions. Also, we want to use the interview to "Impress" the Clubs. Carol suggested that in a small group both sides can be more forthright. The factual information we will garner from Club representatives can be well accumulated in small groups. Tom noted that the Commission's objective is to raise the consciousness of the clubs in a non-threatening way. How do we convey the message that we want the Clubs to observe Human Rights? Tim felt that our fact finding will raise consciousness and we should have a full Commission present to assure that all the Commission members will have the opportunity to hear all the facts. Tom stated that we should not aggravate the Clubs and suffer possible backlash. Tim made the motion that the Commission meet with 1 Committee person at a time, the full Commission being present. The vote taken was: ayes 5 nos 1 abstentions 2

Copies of the letter to be sent to the Clubs were passed out at the meeting and the letter was edited. The decision was made to send the letter simultaneously to all 6 Clubs.

Tim requested that the Human Rights Award be discussed at the next meeting. The date of the next meeting was set for March 1.

Submitted Feb. 21, 1982

Laura S. Kelly

MAR - 4 1982

Minutes of Human Rights Commission Meeting, 1/4/82

Present: H. Blecker, Chairman, C. Williams, J. Neale, D. Westerman,
T. Lashnits, J. Becker, M. Powell, T. James

Excused: L. Kelly, E. Kaplan, H. Shaw

Chairman Blecker announced that Marian Powell, wife of the late Commission member John Powell, had been named to complete John's unexpired term and welcomed Mrs. Powell to the Commission.

Chairman Blecker introduced Rye Police Commissioner Schembri, who had been invited to speak to the Commission. Commissioner Schembri described his background, which includes service as Inspector General for New York City's prisons and as Commissioner of Corrections for the State of Vermont. He said his experience with prison systems had led to a greater interest in human rights on his part. He said learning of the brutality in prisons had been "a rude awakening" for him.

The Commissioner said that upon taking office in Rye, he had been surprised to discover that the Rye Police Department had no guidelines on the use of "deadly force." He has since issued lengthy guidelines more restrictive than New York State law, he said.

Commissioner Schembri said he had noted a trend in law enforcement toward seeking to reduce the opportunities for crime by

limiting the freedom of potential victims -- the innocent. He said he regards this as a "violation of human rights." He answered Commission members' questions for several minutes before departing. In one response, he said he was not aware of any incidents in Rye involving racial, ethnic or religious prejudice since he took office.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted, with three exceptions: 1) John Neale asked that the minutes show he was present at the last meeting; 2) it was noted that the Mr. Hassein present at the joint meeting with the Board of Education was not a member of the Board of Education but an observer; and 3) Tim James asked that the minutes be amended to reflect more fully the points he made during the discussion with the Board of Education. He will offer his amendment at the next meeting.

Chairman Blecker reported that the Commission's Christmas letter regarding the Rye House was published in the Chronicle. The letter was apparently lost by the Item, he reported, but the Item published an amended letter after Christmas.

The Chairman said he had received a letter from Congressman Ottinger requesting help in circulating a petition to President Brezhnev of the USSR protesting restraints on Jewish emigration and harassment of those wanting to emigrate from the USSR. He passed the petition around for signature by those wishing to sign.

Chairman Blecker said he was skipping the committee reports in order to leave more time for the scheduled discussion of how the

Commission should proceed with its planned inquiries regarding the membership practices of private clubs in Rye. Copies of a proposed outline for the Commission's inquiries were distributed by the Community Prejudice Committee for consideration by the Commission. Several Commission members expressed the feeling that the Commission should proceed very cautiously because of the sensitivity of the subject.

(There was considerable discussion over whether club representatives should be invited to meet with the Commission one at a time or several at a time. A consensus seemed to emerge in favor of the former, but it was agreed that a final decision on that question would be put off until the next meeting. The Chairman requested John Neale to prepare, in consultation with a couple of other Commission members, a draft of a letter to be sent to the clubs, for consideration at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, February 1, at 8 p.m.

--Tim James



CITY OF RYE

RYE, NEW YORK

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

January 22, 1982

To: COMMISSIONERS

From: HERB BLECKER

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be held on February 1, 1982 at 8:00 at Rye City Hall.

The agenda is as follows:

- . Minutes
- . Discussion re Clubs - John Neale
- . Committee Reports
- . Old Business
- . New Business

Minutes of the last meeting are attached.

Herb Blecker

HB:lb

cc: Rye City Clerk

Minutes of Human Rights Commission Meeting, 1/4/82

Present: H. Blecker, Chairman, C. Williams, J. Neale, D. Westerman,
T. Lashnits, J. Becker, M. Powell, T. James

Excused: L. Kelly, E. Kaplan, H. Shaw

Chairman Blecker announced that Marian Powell, wife of the late Commission member John Powell, had been named to complete John's unexpired term and welcomed Mrs. Powell to the Commission.

Chairman Blecker introduced Rye Police Commissioner Schembri, who had been invited to speak to the Commission. Commissioner Schembri described his background, which includes service as Inspector General for New York City's prisons and as Commissioner of Corrections for the State of Vermont. He said his experience with prison systems had led to a greater interest in human rights on his part. He said learning of the brutality in prisons had been "a rude awakening" for him.

The Commissioner said that upon taking office in Rye, he had been surprised to discover that the Rye Police Department had no guidelines on the use of "deadly force." He has since issued lengthy guidelines more restrictive than New York State law, he said.

Commissioner Schembri said he had noted a trend in law enforcement toward seeking to reduce the opportunities for crime by

limiting the freedom of potential victims -- the innocent. He said he regards this as a "violation of human rights." He answered Commission members' questions for several minutes before departing. In one response, he said he was not aware of any incidents in Rye involving racial, ethnic or religious prejudice since he took office.

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Commission should proceed with its planned inquiries regarding the membership practices of private clubs in Rye. Copies of a proposed outline for the Commission's inquiries were distributed by the Community Prejudice Committee for consideration by the Commission. Several Commission members expressed the feeling that the Commission should proceed very cautiously because of the sensitivity of the subject.

There was considerable discussion over whether club representatives should be invited to meet with the Commission one at a time or several at a time. A consensus seemed to emerge in favor of the former, but it was agreed that a final decision on that question would be put off until the next meeting. The Chairman requested John Neale to prepare, in consultation with a couple of other Commission members, a draft of a letter to be sent to the clubs, for consideration at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, February 1, at 8 p.m.

--Tim James



CITY OF RYE

RYE, NEW YORK

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

December 21, 1981

To: COMMISSIONERS
From: HERB BLECKER

The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be held on January 4, 1982 at 8:00 at Rye City Hall.

The agenda is as follows:

- . Minutes
- . Meeting with Police Commissioner Schembri
- . Committee Reports
- . Discussion re Clubs
- . Old Business
- . New Business

Minutes of the last meeting are attached.

Herb Blecker

HB:lb
cc: Rye City Clerk

The Rye Human Rights Commission met in the Rye High School Library Conference Room at 7:30 PM on November 24, 1981.

The first portion of the meeting was a joint meeting with members of the School Board.

Members of the Commission present were: Shaw, Westerman, Toombs, James, Becker, Williams and Chairman Blecker, (present as guest of the Commission was Marion Powell).

Members of the School Board were Toombs, Leary, Cohen, Edelman, Shipman (Chairperson), Hassein, Murphy.

Present also were Betty Kleinman, School EEO Officer, Supt. of Schools Hemberger & Barrett, Ass't to the Superintendent. (John Nugent, Rye High AD was also present.)

The discussion centered around the Commission's letter of 8/4/81 with Chairman Blecker emphasizing that no formal charges were being aired but that information as to attitudes was felt important enough to be shared with the Board.

Certain Board members felt that the Commission should not have received any independent information but referred all to the Board and Mrs. Kleinman was enthusiastic about school staff cooperation. The point was made that the spirit of Title IX was important and the attitudes of many unconsciously were still being manifested to the school population.

The Board withdrew at 8:30 PM to its regular meeting.
Chairman Blecker called the Commission to order.
The minutes of the meeting of 11/9/81 were approved.
The draft letter re the Rye City House Christmas
Party was edited and approved for distribution.

Chairman Blecker was to ascertain if the Rye City
Police Chief was available for the next meeting.

All present were reminded that a procedure for the
Human Rights Award needs to be developed.

The next meeting was to be on 1/4/82 at Rye City Hall
at 8 PM.

Adjourn at 9:40 PM.

Horton Shaw