



CITY OF WATERTOWN

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Residents' Advisory Committee Wednesday, January 3, 2024 Minutes

Attendees

Committee Members: Liz Cremens, Kathryn Madden, Theo Offei, Sam Ling (absent: Tom Tracy)

Administrative

The minutes for December 6, 2023, were approved. The next meetings will be on January 17, January 22, and January 24, 2024 at 5:00 pm, and all will move to Executive Session to interview and consider applicants for appointments.

Discussion

The new community engagement specialist in the City, Tyler Cote, attended the meeting to discuss his role and potential areas of collaboration with the RAC regarding outreach for boards and commissions. In a brainstorming discussion, some ideas related to RAC outreach include creating brief (e.g. 30 second) videos about each committee, storytelling narratives, and library events, as well as improving access to information on the City's website (currently totaling about 1200 individual pages). An "expo" event at the library has the advantage of reaching a broad constituency that already is familiar with using government services (i.e. the library), and could include representatives for each of the 24 boards and committees, with information that raises awareness about the role of these bodies as well as current initiatives, using interactive games and other techniques. As part of the Communications Team, Tyler works directly with the City's Social Media and Web Coordinator, Jeanne Ostroff, as well as the Director of Constituent Services/311, Laura Murray. Tyler mentioned that the School Department has their own outreach specialist, and hopefully there can be some collaboration there as well.

Priorities in the upcoming months are 1) ongoing vacancies on the Historic District Commission (resident member), Cultural Council, and Stormwater Advisory Committee; 2) seating the new Human Rights Commission; and 3) the upcoming committees that have expirations in February and April.

The meeting moved into Executive Session to interview candidates and make recommendations and was not reconvened as a public meeting.

Minutes: Submitted by Kathryn Madden, February 14, 2024