



Norwalk Hometown Pride
MINUTES
October 19, 2022

Norwalk Hometown Pride convened at 6:34 p.m. on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at City State Bank in Norwalk. Attending were Tina Robinson, Lucinda Sperry, Christie Petersen, Michelle Lippert, Nichole Swisher, Chris Swisher, Jessica Swartz, Jackson Zeigler, Kylee Schroeder, Chad Smith and Judy Corcoran. Minutes of the meeting of September 19, 2022, were approved on motion by Christie, seconded by Nichole.

As treasurer, Michelle reported she will share preliminary year-end financial information in December. A meeting of officers will be needed to complete fiscal year reporting. She will meet with Jessica who will take on some of the financial duties; Jessica has previously met with Deanna Gingrich and Kayla Zirkle about bookkeeping needs.

Michelle reported there has been some response to the third round of promotion of engraved pavers at the Veterans Memorial. She will need her access to Square restored so she can provide information to the engraver. The goal is to have pavers engraved by year-end. She also gave the key for the HTP mailbox (#297) at the Norwalk Post Office to Tina.

Christie led the group through an extensive list of decisions for Lights of Love 2022 which will be installed at the Norwalk Easter Public Library, 1051 North Avenue, beginning in late November. The goal is to place 40 trees donated by residents in honor or memory of others, repeating the successful 2021 project of 31 trees. Sponsors can decorate and dedicate a tree for a \$100 donation to Norwalk Hometown Pride. The Library will host a community holiday event on December 6 which will enable families to view the trees. (The HTP committee voted in September to allocate up to \$2500 to fund the 2022 event.)

Judy reported she had had conversations with both Mayor Tom Phillips and City Manager Luke Nelson as a private citizen about potential for ongoing support for volunteers of Hometown Pride from the city. She reported Luke had emphasized that HTP is not an entity of city government but there is a partnership between the city and the group to promote the community. Luke said new members of Norwalk Economic Development department will not provide support to HTP as they will focus more on development work. Judy said, however, that the leaders indicated the city values Hometown Pride as a partner in promoting Norwalk as a great place to live, work and do business.

Judy also shared that her contacts with volunteers who support the refugee and immigrant communities in Norwalk have said that residents from an area apartment complex are very interested in having one or more Front Porch Norwalk events in 2024. Judy asked that the HTP group help make sure this happens as an opportunity to welcome and orient the refugee families who are coming to Norwalk from various countries.

Further discussion of officer positions for 2023 was delayed until a November meeting with new officers taking on roles in January. Additional members who might be recruited to the committee were discussed.

The next Hometown Pride meeting will be in November with date and location to be determined. The committee adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Judy Corcoran
Norwalk Hometown Pride Secretary