

**Rotary Club of Englewood  
Spoke February 16, 2021**

**Presiding:** Lisa Wisotsky

**Recorder:** Jim Cole

Total Attendees: 41

**Guests:** Colette Thompson, Ainsworth Minot.

**Program:** After the Pledge of Allegiance we went straight to our program which involved the present City Manager Sonia Salves-Viveiros. She described herself as born outside the Country and immigrated to Newark when she was young and went through the Newark public school system before obtaining degrees in public administration. She has worked in managerial positions in Basking Ridge, Maplewood, and now Englewood. She is the mother of two daughters.

She pointed out that local government, as opposed to state and federal government, had more impact on everyday life than those entities. She described her approach to her role as collaborative and has an open door policy. She was asked how to get in touch with her office specifically and gave the following telephone number:

201-314-3066

The remainder of the program was in a question and answer format.

Lisa led off by noting that she has had difficulties getting service calls answered. Sonia answered that she was looking into modifying ways calls are answered.

Diane Jansen felt the website has been improved and Sonia responded that she was looking into ways of making the site better.

Janet Sharma asked what Sonia's biggest challenge has been and she responded connecting the dots; i.e. making sure that departments communicated with each other. She is working on a quarterly newsletter.

Charlotte Bennett Schoen asked whether Sonia was aware of the Taylor House - apparently an architecturally distinctive home being monitored by the Historical society. Charlotte mentioned that some funds had been raised to make improvements.

Steve Wiessner asked whether Sonia was aware of the vibrant non-profit organizations in the city. Sonia noted that in a way city government was non-profit and she looked forward to working with those organizations collaboratively.

Ward 3 council person Judy Marron asked about the meetings of department heads. Meetings are being held after the council meetings and bi-weekly.

Ainsworth Minot asked what Sonia's plan was to fix the Police Department? Recognizing this as a loaded question Sonia related that she is looking into policing programs and whether the department's training reflects the city's needs.

Mike Passow asked, what things would help her understand the environmental concerns of the community. She said she has an interest in those concerns and would work with various organizations.

**Installation of new members:** This portion of the meeting was conducted by Past District governor Bonnie Sirower. Inducted were Nina Bachrach, Anthony Cureton, and Horace Ragbir. In discussing the role of Rotary Bonnie emphasized caring for others and friendship as well as Peace and the idea of service as worthy goals.

Each prospective new member Gave a thumb nail sketch of themselves. Nina is a mother of five and presently is director of the Bergen Volunteer Center. Horace is from Trinidad and has been in Englewood 32 years and owns his own business. He is and has been a member of and

on the board of many organizations. Anthony is the Bergen County Sheriff and among other past activities has served on the Board of Adjustment. Bonnie then swore in each person to uphold the ideals of Rotary and to abide by the by-laws of the club. Lisa noted that each inductee has received kits containing certificates of membership, pins and information about Rotary.