

**MINUTES**  
**NEWTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**January 17, 2019 7:00 p.m.**  
**Newton City Hall –Room 211**

**Commissioners Present:** Hattie Kerwin Derrick (Chair), Jane Brown, David Kuppenheimer, Eli Ingraham, Eric Gurvis (telephone) Bryan Barash (7:22 p.m.)

**Commissioners Absent:** Tamika Olszewski and Brooke Foucault Welles

**Advisory Council Present:** Lt Bruce Apotheker

**Student Representatives Present:** Nathan Persampieri and Jacques Abou-Rizk

**Guests:** Dana Hanson, Maura O’Keefe, Cindy Greene and Betty Chan

**Staff to the Commission –** Linda Walsh

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### **Introductions**

Meeting called to order at 7 pm.

### **Minutes – November 2018**

No vote due to the lack of a quorum

### **Hate Incidents**

Bruce Apotheker reported on 3 incidences.

1. A man in custody was using hateful speech. He appeared to have mental health issues
2. Swastika was found on the playground on tiles
3. Leaflets found in library community drop off boxes, this is considered a bias related incident and not a crime, best not to send out the information about this specific group since that is giving more publicity to the group and is what they are looking for

### **Student Reports –**

- Student from Newton North said the high school needs to find a way for students to talk about their feeling and voice their opinions when hate related incidents happen. Discussion regarding bringing together members of NPS to assist the students.
- We Stand Against Discrimination
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> – To Be Kind Day

### **Genocide Exhibit Discussion**

- Exhibit is now electronic. What other places can it be shown? Other places at the high schools, city hall, etc.
- Hattie to send out the link for the slide show from last year. If everyone could look at it and think about other venues. May need to edit based upon the venue.
- Bring back to the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting for discussion.

### **Human Rights Award Night Debrief**

- Working on getting speeches given for the recipients to be posted on our website
- Going forward nominations due in October ~ forms will be updated posted on website
- available at tables ~ nominations accepted throughout the year

### **Brochures**

- LGBTQ+ -
  - Name of the brochure is same as the title for the mayors liaison
  - the recommendation from City’s law department is to not include any religious organizations on the brochure, it is an issue of division of church and state.
  - If anyone has other groups that they feel should be listed they can e-mail Bryan. Information can also be added to the online version. When information is sent to Bryan people should include group name and contact information.
- Social Justice Reading
  - adult reading list should be added
  - library book for One Read is 8 flavors: untold immigration stories.
  - One of the books on the current list is part of required reading for NPS students. Should that be switched out

- with another book?
- Discussion regarding an HRC book club
- Dissemination of above Brochures
  - MLK Day resource table
  - Library
  - Website
  - Social Media

#### **Update re: Trainings**

Fair Housing committee is sponsoring a training, will be held on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm, any interested HRC members have been invited to attend

#### **Social Media Policy**

Maura O'Keefe from the City of Newton law department presented a PowerPoint about use of social media, There was discussion about having a more robust social media presence and having standard language to use in the event of the need for a timely response, a suggestion was made to establish a sub-committee tasked with messaging that represents the group as a whole, standard operating procedures and pre-approved messages could be created with a list of resources approved and vetted.