

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes of March 5, 2019

Commissioners Present—Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Brooke Welles, Jane Brown, Eric Gurvis, Tamika Olszewski, Bryan Barash
Commissioners Absent – Eli Ingraham and David Kuppenheimer
Advisory Council Present—Lt Bruce Apotheker
Student Representatives Present—none
Guests –Cindy Greene, Dana Hanson and Yasmeen Kazimi
Staff to the Commission – Linda Walsh

The meeting was called to order by Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Chair, at 7:03 p.m. in room 211 in Newton City Hall.

1. Introductions
2. Minutes from February 2019 were approved
3. Hate Incidents
 - Central High school – report regarding fliers on bulletin boards
 - 7-11 – “N” word used in the store with customers.
 - Bowen School – “N” word & anti-gay remark found on the playground
 - Resident stopped on Washington Street
 - Summer Gun Buy Back in June. NPD is working with various groups (Newton-Needham Chamber and Interfaith Clergy) to raise funds to pay for the guns. This initiative is being supported by Peter Koutoujian, Sheriff of Middlesex County.
 - Update regarding incident discussed in February regarding NSHS. Discussion regarding Memo of Understanding with NPS.
4. HRC Book Club
 - C. Greene gave an update. The group will give a more in-depth update in April.
5. HRC collaboration with NPS
 - The Mayor was very responsive to the idea of having a NPS representative at HRC meetings. The tricky part is who the representative should be.
 - Discussion regarding representative and their role.
 - Dana Hanson to bring back to the Mayor who will discuss with the Superintendent.
6. Genocide Exhibit Discussion – ideas for locations to show the exhibit
 - Gallery in City Hall – L.Walsh to follow-up with D. Hanson to see if the space is available in April.
 - Jackson Homestead – Cynthia Greene to follow-up
 - Local Colleges – Hattie Kerwin Derrick to follow-up
7. Zoning Ordinance – Bryan Barash
 - Read “Color of Law” and began to think about Newton.
 - Different ways policies were used to disadvantage people of color. This is relevant now as Newton discusses zoning laws.
 - Discussion about how to find information – Historic Newton, City Solicitors Office, Myrtle Baptist, Freedom of Information Act
 - Brooke Welles agreed to help Brian in his research. They may ask for assistance from others.
8. Pride – June 4th at 6 p.m.
 - Discussion of people to honor – David Gata ; former NPS teacher – discussion of tying this into a formal celebration/good bye. Tamika Olszewski to follow-up with D. Gata and respond back to the HRC.
 - Discussed ways to incorporate youth.
9. Conversation Therapy – This has been heard by the legislation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40. Next meeting on April 2nd at 7 p.m. in Room 211
Respectfully submitted by Hattie N. Kerwin Derrick