

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes of April 2, 2019

Commissioners Present—Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Bryan Barash, Jane Brown, Eric Gurvis, Eli Ingraham, David Kuppenheimer, Tamika Olszewski

Commissioners Absent – Brooke Welles

Advisory Council Present—none

Student Representatives Present— Jacob Decker

Guests – Cindy Greene, Dana Hanson, Anne Josephson, Yasmeen Kazimi

Staff to the Commission – Shin-Yi Lao

The meeting was called to order by Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Chair, at 7:00 p.m. in room 211 in Newton City Hall.

1. Introductions
2. Minutes: vote to approve March minutes deferred
3. Hate Incidents: Lt. Bruce Apotheker not present so no report this month
4. Student Reports
Newton South HS – Jacob Decker
 - J. Decker reported that he perceives a lack of awareness among students about reporting bias incidents (both that they should report and how to report). He suggested adding human rights resources, including the protocol for reporting bias incidents, to the NSHS website.
Newton North HS – no student representatives present
5. Protocols adopted by NPS – Anne L. Josephson, Chair, Protocol Steering Committee
 - A. L. Josephson, chair of the Protocol Steering Committee (a group of community members), presented their work to develop a school and community best practices protocol for responding to hate speech and bias incidents.
6. Update re: NPS Representative
 - A representative from Newton Public Schools will attend the May meeting
7. HRC Book Club
 - Discussion of possible partners: library, Historic Newton, Newton Inspires, Newton Family Conference, FORJ, neighboring HRCs.
 - J. Decker suggested discussing or viewing “Dear White People” (Netflix show based on a movie) as a way to engage young people.
8. Genocide Exhibit Discussion – continued
 - Printed slides will be ready and hung in City Hall Gallery 1 by the end of the week.
 - Historic Newton will link to the slideshow on their website.
9. Pride
 - David Gaita accepted being the adult honoree
 - Discussed possibilities for a young person to honor
 - E. Ingraham suggested reaching out to and involving GSAs at NPS middle schools
10. New Business
 - B. Barash presented on the progress of the bill to ban conversion therapy

Meeting adjourned at 8:20. Next meeting on May 7, 2019 at 7pm in Room 211 of City Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Hattie N. Kerwin Derrick