

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes of November 13, 2018

Commissioners Present—Hattie Kerwin Derrick (Chair), Jane Brown, Tamika Olszewski, David Kuppenheimer, Eli Ingraham, Eric Gurvis

Advisory Council Present—Lt Bruce Apotheker

Student Representatives Present— Imani Fonfield, Jacob Decker

Guests – Dana Hanson, Jessica Aker, Viviana Planine, Maura O’Keefe, Cindy Greene, Steven Hassan

Staff to the Commission – Linda Walsh and Shin-Yi Lao

1. Hate Incidents reported by Lt. Apotheker
 - Racial slur used verbally and on social media at NNHS
 - “Enter swastika here” written on a bathroom wall at NNHS
 - Swastika drawn on hand at NNHS
 - A Jewish student uploaded anti-Semitic comics on Instagram at NSHS
 - Swastika and hate speech written on a wall at Oak Hill Middle School
 - Newton Police has increased security to houses of worship since the shooting in Pittsburgh
2. Student Reports
 - Anti-Semitic graffiti has been found in bathrooms at NSHS
 - The Oak Hill GSA staged a walkout on 11/6/18 in support of Question 3
 - Discussion of racial and gender gap in AP/Honors classes
 - Discussion of current efforts to educate students and faculty in NPS about issues of diversity
3. Policies and Procedures
 - M. O’Keefe presented her findings on the history of the Newton HRC, its ordinance, and its complaint process.
 - Discussed the role of the HRC: education, listening to the community, bringing people together who disagree, serving as an ally/advocate
 - Discussed hosting 2 MCAD trainings: an internal training for City staff and HRC commissioners and a community-wide training
 - M. O’Keefe will prepare a synopsis of her findings and recommendations for the commission
4. LGBTQ+ Resource Guide
 - Discussed how to handle the inclusion of open and affirming houses of worship. E. Gurvis will ask the Newton Interfaith Clergy Association for their input.
 - Discussed additional edits. The goal is to have the guide ready for the MLK Day Community Celebration.
5. Question 3 – results of the election
 - Holly Ryan was to present but was absent due to illness. Defer to January meeting.
6. Human Rights Awards
 - There have been no submissions for an adult awardee.
 - H. Kerwin Derrick suggested honoring Newton Public School Educators as a group. The commission voted in favor of honoring the Newton Public School Educators contingent upon their acceptance. H. Kerwin Derrick will contact the schools.
 - Ceremony will be held at 6:30pm
 - A book will be dedicated to Sheila Mondshein at the ceremony.
7. MLK Day Community Celebration
 - HRC will have a table at the event with various resources available
8. Information Dissemination
 - Lt. Apotheker had to leave the meeting early. Defer to January meeting.
9. Genocide Exhibit 2019
 - Discussed retiring the posters and locations for posting the digital exhibit