

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of March 6, 2018**

Commissioners Present—Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Jane Brown, Brooke Foucault Welles

Commissioners Not Present – Bryan Barash

Advisory Council Present—Lt Bruce Apotheker

Student Representatives Present— Michael Ryter

Guests – Jessica Aker, Kyra Zola Norsigian, Tamika Olszewski, Howard Wishnie, Andrew Littman, Steven Hassan, Rebecca Schulman Havemeyer, and Dana Hanson

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

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1. Hate Incidents

- Nothing reported
- Concerns in the schools because of the shooting in Florida
- Assessments to school buildings being done.
- Discussions regarding how and when to communicate when issues arise in the NPS. Question regarding differing protocols in the various public schools at all levels.
- Discussion regarding open campuses at North and South.
- There are MOUs with all of the schools.
- New Social Worker starting March 12<sup>th</sup>. This person may be more involved with the schools.

2. Student Reports

NSHS – M. Ryter

- March 14<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m. Walk out Day – administrators being supportive
- Discussion regarding whether there could be some guidance from school administration for K-8?
- Courageous Conversations
  - 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> graders
  - 2 x 55 minutes, which is more time than in the past
  - Good start to turning into an academic class
    - Students more focused, active, positive, and productive conversations
    - 8-29 students in classes
    - Students for next year being identified. Question regarding whether students could self-identify

3. Programming

- Genocide Exhibit
  - Shin-Yi showed digital display
  - Could digital be done at NPS or Library?
  - Photos up at NSHS
- Co-Sponsored events – participants of HRC are asked to attend if possible to assist in supporting the events below:
  - Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Druker Auditorium – Rohina Malik will be bringing her one-woman show, *Unveiled*. *Unveiled* has received critical acclaim and been performed across the US.
  - Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Druker Auditorium – panel discussion which will focus on the similarities and differences between the three Abrahamic faiths (specific details are pending).
- Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast
  - May 23<sup>rd</sup> @ Boston College; doors open at 7:00 a.m.
- Pride
  - June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. on City Hall Lawn
  - Names:
    - Nicole Castillo
    - Rev. Crowley

- Rev. Erin Splaine
- David Gaeta (Drama Academy)
- Barney Frank – would be great but hard to get nailed down to attend as date has already been chosen
- Discussion at next meeting
- Process change for next year (2019)

4. New/Other Business

- Drs. Wishnie and Litmman
  - Discussion regarding programming – Developing Unity within Diversity – A Suggestion for Promoting Unity and Respect in a Divided Society (letter regarding proposal)
  - D. Hanson, Mayor’s office, indicated elements of what they proposed were being done throughout the Newton community
  - Discussion that this event was similar to what was being presented by S. Mondshein, HRC Commissioner
- Resources – discussion regarding HRC being proactive rather than reactive.

5. Next meeting dates:

- April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- May 1<sup>st</sup>
- June 5<sup>th</sup> – Pride
- July 17<sup>th</sup>
- December 4<sup>th</sup> – HRC award night