

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2017**

Commissioners Present—Bryan Barash, Brooke Foucault Welles, Sheila Mondshein, Dianne Chilingierian and Hattie Kerwin Derrick

Commissioners Not Present - Jane Brown

Advisory Council Present—Lt Bruce Apotheker

Student Representatives Present— Amanda Powers

Guests –Kyra Zola Norsigian, Steve Hassan and Carolina Ventura

Staff to the Commission – Shin-Yi Lao

The meeting was called to order by Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Chair, at 7:05 p.m. in room the HHS Meeting Room in Newton City Hall.

1. Introductions

2. Hate Crimes

- Lt. Apotheker reported that there were two recent hate crimes to report.
 - On a fence the “N” word was written. The area was canvassed. There was a camp, perhaps set-up by kids drinking in the woods, but no suspects.
 - Cabot School – Form of bullying; derogatory statements ; conversations were had with Fusion Center and state police
- Police are looking at their overall goals. Looking at partnerships in the community. If anyone has any ideas of what could be done they should contact Lt. Apotheker. There was a recommendation to put something on social media to garner younger residents of Newton.
- Newton looking at whether or not they will continue to use the Civil Service exam. The exam limits people who may fit. It doesn’t take into account anything other than the score. Other cities similar to Newton have discontinued the exam in order to attain a force that is more representative of the community they are serving.

3. Student Reports

Newton North HS – Amanda Powers

- Anti-bullying/Anti-bias work – went well; different people led conversations on different topics
- March 8th – International Women’s Day- during lunch block; went well and was supported by the Administration
- April 7th – to be GLAD Day; LGBTQ; during free block or if teachers sign up
- Week of April 12th – Body Confidence Day – This has become a larger event that discusses issues related to body image; being held during free block or if teachers sign-up

4. Genocide Exhibits

- Need tape
- Adding new materials – 11 new photos representing Rwanda, Cambodia, Iraq, Burma and Bosnia – Sheila is working on how they will fit into the NSHS space. The new photos will need to be laminated.
- Try to get photos into the Newton Tab
- Doodle for help with set-up and breakdown

5. Upstander/Bystander

- May 23rd at 6p at FUSN.
- Please help in spreading the word

6. Pride

- June 6th at 6p

- Bob Parlin
- 7. New Business
 - Holocaust Remembrance at NSHS
 - Michael Ryter willing to work on this at NSHS but needs some assistance. Ideas were passed around. Will pass along contact information for Sheila and Brooke to Michael as they could lend him some assistance.
 - Freedom Chemical Dependence – issues around
 - High & Lows – Newton PATH
 - April 25th at NSHS 7p
 - Adults and teens are welcome
 - Discussion about drugs with teens and families; families from the Newton community are welcome
 - Quinn from the Youth commission looking at different ideas to engage people. Workshops, listening activities; people from different political spectrums.
 - Fair Housing – April is Fair Housing month.
 - Different activities and trainings will be occurring during the month. Discussion regarding discriminatory intent vs. affect
 - Looking at an audit to occur. The last time one was done was in 2006. The audit looks at the treatment of certain groups – race, section 8 and disabilities.
 - Discussion regarding Worcester and their change in policy in regards to citizen vs. resident. Further discussion in May.

The next meeting will be May 16, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Department of Health and Human Services meeting room 106..

Respectfully submitted,

Hattie N. Kerwin Derrick