

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes of April 19, 2016

Commissioners Present—Jane Brown, Sheila Mondshein, Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Bryan Barash and Dianne Chilingirian

Advisory Council Present—Lt Bruce Apotheker and Frank Wolpe

Student Representatives Present— None

Guests – Steve Hassan

Staff to the Commission – Linda Walsh

1. Hate Crimes

- 19 incidents of bias at the schools since the beginning of the year
- Community meeting regarding incidents hard to track down when it is in a bathroom or hallway
- Last year 5 incidents and the year before 3; discussion why the increase in incidents – reporting
- Schools are now reporting everything; Kids have been interviewed and it is believed they haven't realized the seriousness of their actions, not out of malice more attention getting
- Investigations – After an incident is investigated and it is decided it is not an active threat; addressed with teachers and others; depending on investigation and severity it is dealt with in some way
- Richard Cole and ADL – doing trainings and working with the Newton Public Schools

2. Genocide Exhibit

NSHS

- Well received by students; walls and pillars
- In the future could use at least three people to put up the exhibit; would like to put up in the evening or weekend in the future
- Rigged up the banner

NNHS

- Only able to put up 3 or 4 pictures
- Support of Anna Ford Human Rights Club

3. Pride Event

- June 8th
- Side lawn – because of work that was done it is questionable about whether the side lawn used in the past could be used. Need to wait a bit to see what happens. The City knows about the timing for the event – alternatives were discussed. A new flag pole that is easier to put up will need to be acquired.
- Honorary Members – Holly Ryan and Dr. Bershal

4. Community Meeting

- Discussion of the meeting held on April 7th
- Discussion of what transpired and future meetings

5. Future Meeting dates:

- Next meeting dates: May 17th, June 8th (Pride Event); July 12th

6. New Business:

- B. Barash gave an overview of the Transgender Bill
 - i. Protective status; public accommodations
 - ii. Effort to close the gap
 - iii. House Speaker hasn't brought forth the bill yet

Respectively Submitted,
Hattie N. Kerwin Derrick