

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 18, 2016 MEETING**

Commissioners Present— Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Dianne Chilingerian, Jane Brown, Bryan Barash and Brooke Wells

Commissioners Not Present - Sheila Mondshein

Advisory Council Present—Lt Bruce Apotheker and Frank Wolpe

Advisory Council Not Present - Viviana Plaine

Student Representatives Present— None

Guests –Carolina Ventura, Steven Hassan; Kyra Zola Norsigian, Elziabeth Cooper and Cedric-Michael Simmons

Staff to the Commission – Linda Walsh

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1. Introductions

2. Kyra Zola Norsigian – social justice; Black Lives Matters banner

- Concerned Community Members that would like to have a banner put up at City Hall
- Discussion regarding the efforts of BLM throughout the country, Somerville and Newton
- Discussion regarding logistics if City Hall wasn't an option; currently a banner at FUSN across from Newton Police Department. There was a discussion regarding those efforts.
- Costs - shouldn't affect this happening
- The committee decided that the topic should be brought to the Mayor

3. Hate Crimes Report

- NNHS is discussing the incident with the Confederate Flag internally. The Confederate Flag incident didn't rise to the level of a crime.
- Report at the Middle School of a hacking incident.
- Lt. Apotheker define hate crimes.
- There was a question of whether any BLM signs have been taken down. Per those in the room there have not been any incidences of that happening.
- They are looking at doing the Basketball events twice next summer.
- Cops & Cones has been successful. Community members could see police officers in a positive way.

4. December:

- Human Rights award – Holly Gunner; December 6<sup>th</sup>
  - H. Kerwin Derrick trying to get hold of H. Gunner
  - Honoring of Past HRC members
    - Discussed looking at members from the past three years
    - Agreed to tell the library they had \$200 to spend on books
    - Past members will be invited to the event

5. Upcoming Events:

- Genocides
  - Previous discussions regarding collaborating with other groups
  - How to get others to assist.
  - Kyra Zola Norsigian – volunteered her mother
  - B. Welles indicated that perhaps it could be part of a student project
- Panel Discussion on race
  - The committee agreed that Janet Helms should be contacted to be both a facilitator
  - Could the event be held at BC Law School.
  - Discuss at a future meeting

6. New Business:

- Students –
  - Evening commitments not signing up readily
  - A lot of options
  - Used to be resume builders
  - Michelle Leong from NNHS gave Dianne Chilingerian, HRC member, 17-18 names and only 1 responded to Dianne
  - Discussion regarding changing the model. Being restrictive with how students should attend.

7. Meeting Schedule November 2016 – July 2017

Next meeting: **November 9, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Health and Human Services Office**

The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, contact Jini Fairley, ADA Coordinator, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: [ifairley@newtonma.gov](mailto:ifairley@newtonma.gov) or (617) 796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service, dial 711.