

## THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 2015 MEETING

Commissioners Present— Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Dianne Chilingerian Holly Ryan

Commissioners Not Present - Jane Brown and Sheila Mondshein

Advisory Council Present—Lt Bruce Apotheker, Viviana, Frank Wolpe

Student Representatives Present— None

Guests – Betty Chan, Brian Barash, Nicola Curtin, Brooke Wells

Staff to the Commission – Linda Walsh

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The meeting was called to order by Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Interim Chair, at 7:34p.m. in room 222 in Newton City Hall.

#### 1. Introductions

- Guests present had submitted paperwork to be either a Committee member or an Advisory member.

#### 2. Student Reports/NPS

- NNHS
  - Activists from the UN were present for a discussion
  - Black History Month Celebration
  - Feminism Day
  - International H2O day – water.org
- Discussion regarding article in the TAB regarding Newton Public Schools (NPS)
  - Is there a diversity officer in the NPS?
  - Lt. Apotheker discussed process if an issue comes to the Newton Police. There is a need for uniformity amongst the schools. There was also a question of how new school administrators were trained/oriented to the processes.
- There will be a mandatory Transgender training with the Principals and Assistant Principals from the NPS.
- There are more issues in the middle and elementary schools. Issues are brought forth and Mental Health training is provided for NPS staff.
- Discussion regarding having someone from the NPS come and speak to the HRC regarding processes and hear about what is happening. *Linda will be looking into for a future meeting.*
- Discussion regarding whether the HRC should address the School Committee to articulate issues. It was decided to gather more information and then proceed. This presentation should also include some statistics.

### **3. Approval of Minutes from February 2015**

- Deferred due to lack of quorum.

### **4. Hate Crimes**

- Lt. Apotheke reported that there were no hate crimes.
- There is an increase in opiates.
  - Cheaper than heroin or other narcotics.
  - People don't realize how potent opiates are after relapse.

### **5. Discussion of how to recognize Commissioners who have recently left**

- Dedicate a book in the name of the Commissioner. Linda will speak to the Library (Phil) regarding what is needed and if the HRC could have a special section or way to separate out specific books.
- Presentation of the book at a social to be held at a future meeting - perhaps July. Hattie to contact previous members.

### **New Business**

### **6. Asian Festival Proposal for funds (Betty Chan – Newton Asian Pacific American Network (NAPAN))**

- Showed draft of the flier. She will contact Linda for the HRC logo. Once the logo is on the flier the draft should be sent out to Linda Walsh and Hattie N. Kerwin Derrick.
- Evans Park is providing the food. Discussion regarding could Betty and Diane C. go to local establishments to request other items in the name of the HRC. It was recommended that they try to do it on their own rather than from the HRC. If there is an issue Betty and/or Diane should connect with Linda and/or Hattie to discuss further options.
- Linda indicated to Betty what she needs to do to request the funds, \$175, given to the event from the HRC.

### **7. ISIS event held by the Crime Prevention Task Force**

- The event was rescheduled to March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. due to the weather.

### **8. Status of New Appointments**

- Hattie and Linda meeting with the Mayor to discuss the appointments.
- Four Openings for Commissioners and 20 for Advisory
- Currently, there are seven people who are interested in a position of either Commissioner or Advisory Council

### **9. Pride Event**

- Ideally this would be held the beginning of June – perhaps June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Raise the Flag and Speakers
- Flag – Linda to look to see if she still has Holly's and get the dimensions. Hattie to go to her flag person.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be April 8, 2015 at 7:30 pm in room at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hattie N. Kerwin Derrick