

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2015 MEETING**

Commissioners Present— Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Dianne Chilingirian, Jane Brown, Sheila Mondshein
Holly Ryan

Advisory Council Present—Lt Bruce Apotheker and Viviana Planine

Student Representatives Present— None

Guests –Brooke Wells

Staff to the Commission – Linda Walsh

Minutes – unanimously accepted 1st Jane and 2nd Diane

Hate Crimes Report/Police related information

- Threats at Newton North in June
- One Incident of anti-Semitism at a West Newton Community Center
- Summer safety program was held at Chestnut Hill
 - Middle schoolers
 - Working to ensure children are occupied
- Newton received a grant to fund a social worker to work with the police department.
- Newton Cares posters will be going up in City Hall – this supports all ages throughout the City of Newton. The group made recommendations for other placements throughout the city.

Programming for September 2015 - July 2016

- December – HRC Award
 - 2015- Tyrone, 42 year veteran with the City of Newton, Bruce to speak to Tyrone
 - 2016 – recommendation for Holly gunner
- April – Genocide programming
 - Display or some type of programming
 - Acknowledgment of all genocide
 - Display at City hall in the center of the atrium
 - Diane and Sheila to come back in October with recommendations and ideas
- May – Mayor’s prayer breakfast
 - Discussion regarding the role of the HRC in this event
 - Discuss later in the spring perhaps HRC part of planning
- June – Pride
 - Recommendation of June 8th for the event to be held;
 - New Flag pole?
 - Whom should be invited to speak – Milton; Supreme Court
 - Picnic
 - Start earlier to have more kid friendly events
- Racial Justice event
 - Talking to children about race
 - Brooke and Nicola to work on and this area and come back to the group

Role of the commission

- Discussion regarding being elected by the Mayor
- Need to take the lead of the Mayor's office
- Need to voice the opinions of the group in clear manner
- Discussion about responding to issues in a faster way – meetings need to be declared 48 hours in advance of a meeting.

New Business

- Connecting/collaborating with other groups
 - Look at groups HRC could work with
 - Come to future meetings with recommendations
- Social Media
 - consensus that something should be done
 - not Twitter
 - look into this for the future
- Students
 - Viviana looking for students

Next meeting, Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at 7:30 PM – Health and Human Services Office