

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2014 MEETING**

Commissioners Present – Peter Brown, Nazik Kazimi, Sheila Mondshein, Dianne Chilingerian, Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Sona Petrossian and Brenda Krasnow

Commissioners Not Present – Jane Brown and Holly Ryan.

Advisory Council Present – Lt. Bruce Apotheker, Viviana Planine and Frank Wolpe.

Peter Brown, who chaired the meeting, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM in Room 222 in Newton City Hall.

Introductions were made.

There were no public comments.

The minutes of the February 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

There were no school updates. Viviana reported that the South had Black History month programs and a discussion of suicides.

Lt. Apotheker reported there were no hate crimes.

A short discussion followed about the gay pride program in June and the HRC's participation. A motion was made and seconded to allocate up to \$450.00 for the purchase of a gay pride flag and the rental of a temporary flag pole for the gay pride program in June. The vote unanimously passed.

Hattie brought up the use of social media by the Commission – Facebook and Twitter. Hattie agreed to research the City's support for use of social media. The major problem noted with the use of such media is the administration of the site and upkeep.

Sona presented an email that she received late this afternoon from Alderman Amy Sangiolo concerning Newton North's production of the play "Thoroughly Modern Millie." The play, a comedy set in the 1920's, depicts Asians in an unflattering light. Several North students had a discussion with the Commission about the play at our January meeting. In order to respond to Alderman Sangiolo, the Commission felt it needed more facts and Sona agreed to look into the situation and report back.

The group was reminded of the program the HRC is co-sponsoring with Historic Newton on various nights in March and April. Flyers about the program were distributed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Brown