

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF JULY 9, 2014 MEETING

Commissioners Present— Jane Brown, Hattie Kerwin Derrick and Peter Brown,

Commissioners Not Present— Dianne Chilingirian, Brenda Krasnow, Nazik Kazimi, Sheila Mondshein, Holly Ryan, and Sona Petrossian.

Advisory Council Present—Lt Bruce Apotheker and Frank Wolpe.

Student Representatives Present— None.

Others – Alderman Amy Sangiolo and Linda Walsh, Staff Liason.

Peter Brown, who chaired the meeting, called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM in Room 202 in Newton City Hall. Peter announced that was no quorum since there were only three commissioners present.

There were no public comments and no student reports.

Alderman Amy Sangiolo attended the meeting to discuss concerns of the Asian-American community concerning the “Thoroughly Modern Millie” play at Newton North. Even though the school administrators and teachers apologized, Alderman Sangiolo’s concern was a procedure when someone in the community has a problem or issue concerning discrimination against a group in the community. What steps are in place to address and investigate concerns? Who should problems be reported to? After a discussion it was decided that the HRC would write a letter to the principals at both North and South High Schools and the Superintendent, and possibly the school committee, to arrange a meeting to discuss these concerns. Alderman Sangiolo will send copies of all her correspondence with the schools to Peter who will draft a letter and circulate it for comments.

Lt. Apotheker reported a possible hate crime. A Newton resident had a swastika keyed on his car. Since it was impossible to determine where the keying took place, it could not be determined that the possible hate crime took place in Newton. The police are investigating.

The gay pride program was a success. The flag is still flying. It will be taken down later in July.

Linda advised that the amendment to the HRC ordinance is back in the legal department for review.

Linda handed out an ethics letter and asked those commissioners present to sign and return it. The letters to the other commissioners will be mailed to them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Brown