

Minutes – Newton Human Rights Commission October 8, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Introductions were made and it was announced that October is Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness Month as well as Breast Cancer Awareness Month

There was no public comment.

Since Jane Brown had to leave early to attend another meeting she was given the floor for a statement. Jane was specifically directing her comments to our high school representatives regarding the dangers of nuclear weapons. Members of various peace movements as well as Mayors For Peace are lobbying for the US to stop building nuclear power plants. Jane gave the students information and petitions to take to their schools.

Students from NSHS reported on several programs taking place in the school such as anti-bullying, seniors getting SOS training and the establishment of a program called “aware” dealing with mental health awareness as well as providing a “safe haven” for students.

Holly presented the September minutes with a correction. After a short discussion, the corrected minutes were approved. Frank made note of the outstanding contributions made by Linda and Holly, lobbying for the changes in the ordinance at public gatherings and hearings.

The upcoming HRC Award program was discussed at length and a list of HRC responsibilities to prepare for the evening were delegated to members. The event will take place on December 10, 2014 at the Newton Library. Refreshments will begin at 6:30 P.M. and the program will begin promptly at 7. Our award recipients are Walter and Arese Carrington of Newton. Two student recipients will be chosen by each high school and the names, contact information and short bios are due to the HRC by October 21st

Holly introduced our guest Betty Chan who is the president of the Newton Asian Pacific American Network. She is interested in becoming a member of the HRC Advisory Council. She has been active in helping to organize the Asian Cultural Festival, which will take place on Saturday October 11th at City Hall. She also told us that May is National Asian Month and she discussed the possibility of having the HRC take part in the event. After a brief discussion, we agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

The next meeting of the HRC will take place on Wednesday, November 12 at 7:30 in the conference room of the HHS office again. Bruce Apotheker will present the speaker for QPR Question-Persuade-Refer program.

Respectfully submitted,

Sona Petrossian

