

Human Rights Commission and Advisory Council Minutes

Wednesday, March 13, 2013
7:30 p.m., Newton City Hall, HHS

Present: Peter Brown, Sona Petrossian, Lt. Bruce Apotheker,
Brenda Krasnow, Hattie N. Kerwin Derrick, Jane Brown

Absent: Carol Y. Kelley, Sheila Mondshein, Dianne Chilingerian, Holly Ryan, Nazik
Kazimi, Frank Wolpe, Viviana Planine

Students: Andy Frank, Tuleeka Hazra

Guests: Josie Green

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Introductions were made.

Public Comment

Josie Green spoke about the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute and their work with families impacted by violence. Their annual mother's day walk for peace will take place on May 12th. She is forming a Newton Team. If interested please contact her at www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org

School Updates

Tuleeka reported on events at South high. Anti-bullying conversations took place in advisory discussing gossip, name calling and the more subtle nuances of bullying. The speech and debate team qualified several members for nationals. The human rights club had a fundraiser to support the purchase of books for children in Rwanda. Members suggested getting donated books from the Newton Free Library or the New England Mobile Book Fair. The 'Days of Remembrance' program is currently being planned. Tuleeka gave her phone number to Brenda and Peter so they can give her suggestions for speakers.

Andy reported on events from North high. The leadership class has made an anti-bullying video that will be shown at Newton South. Asian culture day will be held on March 23rd. MVP is creating a survey to gather feedback from teachers and kids on bullying.

Approve Minutes

No vote could be taken to accept the minutes due to the lack of a quorum.

Hate Crimes

None

Discussion about the direction of the commission – community contacts

Peter discussed the direction the commission could take by reaching out to different groups in the City. These meetings could perhaps be helpful in identifying any issues. The commission could offer to be of help in resolving any problems. Peter also talked about a community forum that is being held in Worcester on civic engagement. Connecting to other community organizations may be another way to reach out to various groups. Putting on programs has been a goal of the commission but a different approach may need to happen in getting the word out about the HRC to others. Peter will be contacting the clergy association and Brenda will be contacting the group for ethnic and racial harmony to discuss what ways the HRC may partner with them.

HRC Award Program

The award program is being planned for the evening of April 10th at the Druker auditorium in the Newton Free Library. Four Newton High School students will be honored.

Other Business

Jane announced a program to be held on Sunday March 17th entitled “Drones, Ethical and Moral Issues of Drone Warfare, Assassinations and Surveillance” at 116 Church St Newton

Adjourn 8:45p.m.