

Human Rights Commission and Advisory Council Minutes

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

7:30 p.m., Newton City Hall, HHS

Present: Peter Brown, Lt. Bruce Apotheker, Jane Brown
Holly Ryan, Brenda Krasnow, Viviana Planine, Dianne Chilingirian,

Absent: Sona Petrossian, Nazik Kazimi, Frank Wolpe, Hattie N. Kerwin Derrick,
Sheila Mondshein

Students: Eliza Beth, Hiroki Shibuya

Guests: Vincent Farina

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m and introductions were made.

Public Comment

None

School Updates

The 2 student representatives are new to the committee so Peter gave a brief description about the work of the commission. The students introduced themselves and spoke about their interest in human rights. They were asked to bring any programs or issues happening in their schools and reminded that the HRC would like to be supportive to them in their work.

Approve Minutes

July minutes were approved as written

Hate Crimes

None

Commission and Advisory Board Vacancies

There is one vacancy for commissioner and several openings for advisory board members. Anyone interested should send a resume with a cover letter expressing your interest to Ana Gonzalez. In addition, let Peter and Linda know so they can keep the process moving.

Representatives for several committees

There are several committees that need HRC representatives.

Clergy association – Peter will be talking to the new chair, Stacy Swain. This group expects to restart their meetings in October. Depending on the day, Dianne volunteered to attend.

MAHRC – Peter volunteered to attend and Brenda will go if she is available

MLK Day – Jane Brown volunteered to attend

Mayors Prayer Breakfast – Holly volunteered to attend

Programs

The annual HRC award will be held in December. Nominations should be made at our October meeting. Please bring names and biographies of the nominees to the next meeting.

Jane announced that Newton Dialogues for Peace will have a demonstration from 5-6 at the corner of Beacon and Center streets protesting an attack on Syria.

Holly announced the first meeting for LGBT seniors will be held at the Newton Senior Center on Wednesday Sept 18th from 4-6 PM. Holly will be on the advisory board. Please spread the word so that more people will be aware and encouraged to join the group.

Old/New business

There was discussion about the engine 6 transitional housing project. There were many questions posed about the process going forward. There should be more information available to discuss at the next meeting.

Ana Gonzalez will join us at our October meeting.

Adjourn 9:00 p.m.

