

Human Rights Commission and Advisory Council Minutes

Wednesday, October 10, 2013
7:30 p.m., Newton City Hall, HHS

Present: Peter Brown, Jane Brown, Holly Ryan, Officer Eric Rosenbaum, Sheila Mondshein, Sona Petrossian, Frank Wolpe, Hattie N. Kerwin Derrick, Nazik Kazimi,

Absent: Dianne Chilingirian, Brenda Krasnow, Viviana Planine,

Students: Eliza Beth, Hiroki Shibuya, Hannah McInnes, Gabe Alder-Cohen

Guests: Vincent Farina

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. and introductions were made.

Public Comment

None

School Updates

Students spoke about a classmate who passed away, Karen Douglas. Students wore purple and turquoise in her memory and attended a club in her memory. The West Suburban YMCA will hold a community meeting for those dealing with a sudden death Thursday, Oct 10th from 6-8 PM

The powder-puff (girls) football game is no longer being played at Newton South but the controversy is still a topic of discussion. There are plans to play an unauthorized game off school grounds.

Approve Minutes

September minutes were approved as written

Hate Crimes

None

Guest

Ana Gonzalez, Director of Community Engagement, presented a PowerPoint describing her role. The 3 components of her job are working with; boards and commissions, area councils and the mayor's internship program. She acts as a liaison between the City and neighbors, businesses and nonprofit groups.

Ana interacts with Newton residents daily and hears a lot of feedback. She was asked if there are any groups that the HRC could reach out to. She suggested reaching out to the Latino community. Sona also gave Peter contacts in the Asian community.

Commission and Advisory Board Vacancies

The HRC annual award will be on December 11, 2013. Two nomination were made; Marianne Mayfield and Steve Linsky. The vote for Marianne Mayfield was unanimous (6 votes) The vote for Steve Linsky was 5 in favor, 1 abstention. Marianne will be contacted first to make sure she feels comfortable accepting the award.

Old/New business

Linda told the group that Dianne was not present at the meeting due to the loss of her father. Everyone expressed heartfelt condolences to Dianne and her family.

Peter will be meeting with Jayne from the senior center to talk about a program on ageism at the senior center.

Peter spoke with Stacey Swain. He will attend the next clergy association when her returns from vacation

Peter spoke about the situation with the failed engine 6 project and the perception in the community is not good. The HRC could consider writing a letter to the editor.

Sheila gave an update of the actions of the fair housing committee in response to Engine 6. Two letters were sent to the mayor in July and September which offered to provide advice. Neither letter was answered. Following discussion about a request for a meeting with the HHS, Law and Planning department heads, that request was granted and the meeting was held Monday. At the meeting, Sheila gave advice and input on fair housing law as it relates to aspects of the Engine 6 proposal.

At separate meetings held over the summer by the Planning department head, it was recommended that for future projects, the opportunity for public comment be changed to an earlier point in the process.

Jane passed around 2 petitions to sign; raising the minimum wage and accumulation of sick time

Frank gave out information about an upcoming program called 'demystifying teen relationships' at the Waban library Oct 22 from 7-8:30 pm

Holly spoke to Aaron Goldman about the flag raising in June for LGBT pride month.

Sheila will contact Wanda Pazmino about reaching out to the Latino community.

Adjourn 9:00 p.m.