

Human Rights Commission and Advisory Council Minutes

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

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

Present: Jane Brown, Holly Ryan, Sheila Mondschein, Sona Petrossian, Frank Wolpe, Hattie N. Kerwin Derrick, Nazik Kazimi, Dianne Chilingirian, Brenda Krasnow, Viviana Planine, Lt Bruce Apotheker

Absent: Peter Brown

Students: Eliza Beth, Mia Coleman

Guests: Vin Farina

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

Public Comment

None

Approve Minutes

October minutes approved as written

School Reports

Eliza and Mia gave school reports – the non-school sponsored powder-puff game has been scheduled to an off campus location, bullying program continues to take up a lot of time

Linda said there will be a community meeting to discuss the recent suicides of 2 students. Anyone interested in being included let her know

Holly asked about 'safe zones' that were established for LGBT youth. There are still signs in teacher's classrooms.

Hate Crimes

Bruce talked about the recent ads that appeared in the local papers from the 'Americans for peace and tolerance.

Discussion

Mayors meeting on community involvement – Sheila said that Peter attended a meeting held by the mayor on community involvement. The first idea to increase volunteerism will be to collect food for the Newton food pantries. Dori spoke to Peter about a program idea “what is it to be ____ in Newton”. This idea is in keeping with the discussion at HRC in reaching out to different community groups. Peter has a contact for people in the Indian and Asian communities. Wanda Pazmino is a good contact for the Latino community, but she has stated that she is overcommitted at this time, so other possible contacts were discussed.

Jane suggested volunteering at the Newton library as a way of reaching out and getting involved. Brenda suggested members of different groups be invited to one our meetings first so that we could hear the issues before planning a program. Holly suggested a member of HRC could go out to meetings to introduce our commission and what we do.

A complaint was filed with HUD in reference to the engine 6 project. There will be a complaint investigation.

Annual HRC Award

The annual award will take place on Dec 11th. Marianne Ferguson Mayfield will be honored as well as 5 students. Former members, commissioners and Alderman will be invited

Old/New business

none

Adjourn 9:00 p.m.