

Human Rights Commission and Advisory Council minutes

Wednesday – June 13, 2012

7:00 pm – Newton City Hall – Room 202

Present:

Jane Brown, Brenda Krasnow, Bruce Apotheker, Peter Brown, Sona Petrossian, Holly Ryan, Frank Wolpe
Student Representative - Abby Coleman

Absent:

Ann Capoccia, Carleton Merrill, Norman Lazarus, Lillian Backman, Viviana Planine, Sheila Mondschein, Carol Kelley, Hattie Kerwin Derick, Dianne Chilingirian, Nazik Kazimi

Guests:

Joe Cugini, Terra Friedrichs, Linda Jenkins, Noah McKenna, David Oscar Knuttunen, Margaret Zalesksi, Steve Revilak, Kendra Moyer, Jeff Stone, Marlene and Wayne Archer Clark, Bill Dain, Octo and Sarah Barnett

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Introductions made by all in attendance.

School Updates

Abby said the end of the school year was very busy. The students have been very sad about a recent loss of a classmate that passed away. Sona thanked Abby for serving on the commission and consistently attending our meetings.

Occupy Boston Program

*note: this part of the program was taped by NewTV

Peter Brown welcomed our guest speakers from Occupy Boston.

Jeff Stone gave introductory comments about Occupy Boston then asked each person to introduce themselves and give a short explanation of their motivation to join. Each guest spoke for a few minutes about themselves and their interests. The following are excerpts from the comments:

- Nonviolent civil disobedience has got people talking
- Banks get preferential treatment over ordinary people
- Activism for economic justice is what drives the movement
- The people involved are very inspiring and about justice for all

- Cooperatives are great and that model should be the model of the future

The following current activities and plans were mentioned:

- A bank action group meets weekly
- Nonviolence civil disobedience trainings are planned for Aug 11,12,13
- All information can be found on website occupyboston.org
- All working groups are listed on this website
- Occupy Boston radio station is OBR.FM
- September 12th will be the one year anniversary of occupy wall street
- Occupy Newton has a group that meets on Mondays and Thursdays. They would like to expand the group and are planning an information day soon

Hopes for the future:

- Engage in direct action and civil disobedience
- Keep up the pressure for change
- Convince more people that greed for acquiring stuff is less important
- See that people become more self-reliant, proactive and move away from materialism
- To create a genuine mass movement
- Set up an environment where things are different with a community of mutual support
- To create activists or groups wherever you are
- To learn about community gardening to reconnect with the earth and become self-sustainable

Questions and general discussion:

Is there a theme of the occupy group?

- There are many themes

What was the issue with Monsanto?

- The environment and genetically altered seeds

How do you mobilize a lot of people?

- By creating groups, working on your own cause
- Bringing people together in many ways ex. marches, demonstrations, twitter and Facebook

The tea party movement has been very successful. Can this model be used by the occupy group to get things done?

- All voices are heard and all opinions are voiced

Are people going to stay away from the polls?

- It is an individual decision

Minutes approved as written

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

