

## **Human Rights Commission and Advisory Council Minutes**

Wednesday, Oct 10, 2012

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

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Present: Peter Brown, Dianne Chilingirian, Sona Petrossian, Lt. Bruce Apotheker, ,  
Holly Ryan , Jane Brown

Absent: Viviana Planine, Hattie N. Kerwin Derrick, Carol Y. Kelley, Carleton Merrill,  
Sheila Mondshein, Frank Wolpe, Nazik Kazimi, Brenda Krasnow

Students: Rachel Bass, Andy Frank, Jordi Batler, Abby Coleman

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

### School Updates

Anti-bullying sessions are being conducted during homeroom at North. High school student clubs have fees (\$120) and the faculty advisors are being told to enforce this charge. Some students cannot afford this. The money does not go back to the club. There was discussion about some strategies the students could use to address this concern with administration.

Peter spoke about the 'pledge to respect' that is being used in the City of Worcester. He asked the students if they thought this pledge could be used in Newton. The students said they liked the pledge. It could be expanded to include more than sports. Peter asked them to forward the use the pledge in any way they can at their schools.

The Lions Roar was nominated for the 'Pacemaker'' award and nationally recognized.

### Approve Minutes

Minutes for June, July and September were approved.

### Hate Crimes

The stop sign at Waltham and Crafts streets had a derogatory sticker applied to it. The sticker was removed and the incident is under investigation.

### Program Update

A small group is working on plans to hold a program on transgender issues.

### HRC annual Award

Four names were submitted for this year's award; Richard Bail, Carol and Rickard Beard, Elizabeth and Robert Smith and Gordon Marin. A short summary of each nominee was discussed.

### Response Letter

Peter has a standard letter that could be used to respond to any incident. After discussion, it was decided that this letter is a good starting point but that each incident should be responded to separately.

### Revision of the HRC ordinance

The ordinance needs to be changed. The recommended revision to the ordinance, Article V of Chapter 12 (Health and Human Services) starting at section 12-50. Add words, ***gender identity and expression***, following the current words of 'sexual orientation' at section 12-50 (policy of the City) both paragraphs (a) and (b) (1) and section 12-53 (functions, powers and duties) both paragraphs (b) (1) and (d)

Peter asked Linda to follow-up with the City's law department to see how we get this change in ordinance accomplished.

### HRC annual Award (discussion continued)

There was more discussion about the nominees. There was a desire stated to find a person who did work in the local community. Jayne Colino was nominated and approved by a unanimous vote.

### New Business

Linda announced the mayor's youth summit will take place on Oct 11 from 6-9 at Oak Hill Middle School.

Adjourn 8:50 PM

