

Human Rights Commission and Advisory Council Minutes

Wednesday, November 14, 2012
7:30 p.m., Newton City Hall, cafeteria

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

Absent: Viviana Planine, Carol Y. Kelley, Carleton Merrill, Sheila Mondshein

Students: Rachel Bass, Jordi Batler, Abby Coleman, Tuleeka Hazra

Guests: Greg Smith, Martha Davis

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

School Updates

Peter asked if the student club fees were still a problem. Rachel said yes and as a result the leadership class has organized a group to fight the fees. They will be going to city hall next week to voice their complaint. There was discussion about how student fees were paid in the past who benefits from the money collected. Tuleeka said the human rights club at South has 35 members and has applied for 2 grants. If funded, they would have a film festival about genocide in the spring. Jordi spoke about the 'no homework' weekends at south and other initiatives the school senate is addressing. "house your fall peeps" is a fundraiser to become an official member of Habitat for humanity. Abby spoke about a global communities project at South. Rachel said the anti-bullying program at North was rescheduled due to the hurricane.

Hate Crimes

None to report

Presentation: Boston Principles

Martha Davis from Northeastern University School of Law presented the "Program for Human Rights in the Global Economy". The Boston Principles addresses the human rights of immigrant communities.

HRC award 2012

Nominees were discussed for this year's award. The nominees were; Dr. Richard Bail, Gordon Martin, Elizabeth and Robert Smith, Fr. James Woods. After further discussion an additional nomination, for Barney Frank, was made. The vote for giving the award to Barney Frank was unanimously approved.

Transgender Program

The program will take place on November 29th at the Newton Senior Center from 7-9 pm and will be presented by Gunner Scott. Holly will work on publicity and Linda will place the information on the website.

Boys Scouts anti-gay position

Shawn reported his ongoing efforts to denounce the formal position of the boy scouts organization against membership for people who are gay. He has found 3 additional people who are interested in turning in their Eagle Scout badges in protest. Shawn will keep us updated on his efforts.

Announcement

Peter told the group that Sheila is recuperating from shoulder surgery so will not be able to attend meetings for a while.

Approve Minutes

Minutes for October were approved.

Adjourn 9:05 p.m.

