

Human Rights Commission and Advisory Council Minutes

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

7:30 PM, Newton City Hall, Room 202

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

Absent: Carol Kelley, Sheila Mondshein, Carleton Merrill

Students: Rachel Bass, Andy Proceles, Abby Coleman, Tuleeka Hazra

Guests: Gwen Richards, Rebecca O'Brien

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

School Updates

The charging of fees for participation in school clubs was discussed. At North, the fees are not enforced. Students in theater and sports are charged fees at South. No fees have yet been requested for club participation.

At South the 20th annual T'BGLAD program was held on December 19th. Various programs were held throughout the day. On December 13th, South also held a Feminism Day. Panels were held on various subjects throughout the day.

The RAD – rape, aggression, defense – will be held according to Frank.

On December 12th a series of lectures was presented by Artsbridge founder Debbie Nathan, promoting understanding between Israeli and Palestinian teenagers in the “neutral territory” of the arts.

At North, anti-bullying issues have been discussed. All seniors have been asked to sign responsible behavior forms in response to the incident last year at the Brockton basketball game.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the November 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

Hate Crimes

No new hate crimes were reported. To date there have been nine hate crimes reported. Most involved property; none have been reported against a person.

HRC Award – 2012

The Mayor's office requested that the HRC Award ceremony be moved to April because of the anticipated time demands due to the upcoming over-ride vote in March. The consensus was to wait until we hear from the Honoree before we start changing dates. We not only have to accommodate the Honoree's scheduled, but the Mayor's also. It was noted that the Mayor's participation would not require that he stay for the entire event.

Meeting Time

Before we change the day of our regular meetings, we should ask Linda what might be available in the newly renovated new space in City Hall.

New Business

Peter announced that there would be a program about new HUD rules as they affect transgender persons and housing at Medford City Hall on December 13th.

At the next meeting we will discuss and vote on an amendment to the Charter to include sexual orientation and identity as part of the HRC's mandate.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.