

# Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday –February 9, 2011

7:30 pm – Newton City Hall – Veterans conference room

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## Present:

Jane Brown, Peter Brown, Judy Fischbach, Marianne Ferguson, Carol Kelley, Brenda Krasnow, Sheila Mondschein, Sona Petrossian, Bruce Apotheker, Lillian Backman, Samuel Glass, Nazik Kazimi, Viviana Planine, Frank Wolpe, Joan Rubin, Lily Konowitz (student representative)

## Absent:

Ann Capoccia, Carleton Merrill, Susan Rosenthal, Susan Thomas, Dianne Chilingerian, Norman Lazarus

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Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM

## School Updates

Many programs offered at the high schools. January programs included; spelling bee, benefit concert, Boston Globe article, school play “Hairspray”, speech-a-thon. February programs included; improve night, Peru language and service trip, lecture by Billy Star, documentary film showing “Race to Nowhere”, JFK event. Upcoming March events include programs presented by the NSHS black student union.

December minutes approved as written

## Hate Crime/Incident Reports

No hate incidents to report this past month. An incident involving red spray paint graffiti and the word ‘JEW’ is being investigated on Adams St.

NNHS is planning a safety summit the week of April 4<sup>th</sup>. This event will be sponsored by the PTSO.

## Newton Food Pantry

New food pantry opened on Centre St. Volunteer needs sent out on email for those interested. Greater Boston Food Bank evening will be rescheduled to later date.

## Bullying video and discussion

Will be rescheduled- audio-visual equipment not available.

## Updates

### Village Video

Upcoming program will be presented on June 16, 2011 at the library. It will co sponsored by Historic Newton. The mayor will attend.

### Conversations

Not happening at this point due to low number of participants.

### HRC brochure

Draft copy of the brochure is completed and was distributed to the group. Any suggested changes should be directed to Linda via an email.

### HRC library

Media and materials will be identified and cataloged. Let Judy know what items individual members may be storing.

### HRC 2010 Award

Mary Margaret Pappas is this year's honoree. The evening program will be held at the Newton Senior Center on March 29, 2011 at 7:00 pm. Student award recipients still needed from both high schools.

## Other Business

Meeting dates – Meetings will continue to be held the second Wednesday of each month. Upcoming meetings have no holiday conflicts.

Linda made an announcement regarding new appointment of the Health and Human Services Commissioner, Dori Zaleznik.

Marianne asked the members to think about future programs and the budget.

Jane announced that the disabilities committee has become a commission.

Peter had no update from MAHRC

Sona said she obtained a new exhibit on Native American history to be included in days of remembrance in April.

Brenda said there are new programs at the Museum of Science on race

Sheila said the first draft of the report from consultant (architectural access analysis) has been received and is being reviewed. Also, a HUD grant applied for by the Fair Housing should be decided in March.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Next meeting date March 9, 2011