

Human Rights Commission and Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday – December 8, 2010

7:30 pm – Newton City Hall – Veterans Conference Room

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

Introductions made and November 2010 minutes approved without changes

Hate Crime/Incident Reports – No hate crimes reported.

School Updates

Student gave report of the following events held at Newton South; music during passing time, inclusion week, open classrooms during lunch, annual transgender/gay/lesbian awareness day and day of remembrance and holocaust survivor presenter.

The Village (Myrtle Baptist Church

Joe Hunter created and produced the video “Myrtle Baptist Church: Pillar of the Community” Joe spoke of his experience meeting people who lived in the area of Newton known as ‘the village’ and their struggles during the early 1960’s when the turnpike was constructed through their neighborhood. The film documents that time in history and highlights the role of the Myrtle Baptist Church in the lives of the affected neighbors in Newton. There was group discussion and sharing of ideas on where to show the film and the various groups that may be interested in co sponsoring an event.

Administrative Business

Conflict of Interest Law 2011 Booklets were distributed to all members present

HRC organization

Marianne said the commission would not have formal committees but will continue to work on many programs and ideas with interested members in groups.

Committee Reports

Fair housing – Sheila said that the architectural access consultant is nearing completion of her assessment and should have a draft report ready soon. She also announced that a grant application available from HUD is due December 21, 2010 and possibly could be used for training.

Education committee

Sona is working with the principal from Newton North on finding a faculty representative for the commission. She also will be working on the Native American exhibit.

MAHRC (Mass Assoc. of Human Rights and Human Relations Commission)

Peter said the next meeting will be Friday December 10, 2010. Also announced the date for volunteering at the Greater Boston Food Bank on February 2, 2010.

Other Business

Community Conversations

Susan and Brenda said the next program will be held at the Jackson Homestead on January 11, 2010. Invitations were made to all people who participated in past programs to continue the conversation.

HRC library

Marianne asked is there was a volunteer to help identify and catalog items that belong to the Human Rights Commission. Judy volunteered to work with Linda.

Bullying Video

Peter has a video on bullying. It is the story of a young homosexual high school student and his experience with a school system that he eventually sued. There was discussion about different venues for viewing the film.

HRC Award for 2010

Marianne announced the there will be a 2010 award in February or March. She will select the recipient and there will be 2 students recognized as well and honored at the same event.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42