

Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2008

Attendance:

Commissioners present: Jane Brown, Muriel Esdale, Marianne Ferguson (Chair), Brenda Krasnow, Sheila Mondshein, Sona Petrossian, Susan Thomas

Commissioner absent/regrets: Peter Brown, Judy Fischbach

Advisory Council Members present: Ann Capoccia, Homer Franck, Sam Glass, Nazik Kazimi, Norman Lazarus, Myrna Offen, Viviane Planine, Sharon O. Stout, Frank Wolpe

Advisory Council Members absent/regrets: Lt. Bruce Apotheker, Dianne Chilingerian, Carol Y. Kelley, Matt McBride, Carleton Merrill, David Rosen, Armando Rossi, Joan Rubin

Staff present: none

The meeting was preceded by a pot luck dinner at 6:30pm and everyone thanked Jane Brown for hosting.

The meeting portion was dedicated to discussion only and opened at 7:30 pm

Topics of discussion included:

- o The possible need for greater structure within the Human Rights Commission organization
- o A framework for a year's work would enable a more formalized purpose
- o Possibly adopt the practice of conducting business on the basis of position statements
- o How we can better emphasize the role of the Commission within the larger community
- o Comments made to the Commission be kept within the Commission
- o The subject of email: Email about the Commission is a public document; shared email should reflect the goals and purposes of the Commission; it should not contain controversial subject matter; opinion pieces should be so labeled
- o Names and addresses of Commission members should not be dispersed to the public (Note: while certainly the City Clerk's office has such data available to the public about all Commissions, our staff director has a policy of not readily giving such information to the public.)
- o Establishing a sub-committee to explore a program on making Newton a more immigrant friendly community. (Viviana is willing to take the lead)
- o Establishing a sub-committee to explore a program on the Israel Palestinian conflict resolution issue. (Jane B and Nazik are willing to take the lead)

No motions or votes were taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday July 9, 2008 at 7:30pm at Newton City Hall cafeteria

Respectfully submitted, Jane Brown, HRC Commissioner