

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of January 14, 2020**

Commissioners Present—Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Jane Brown, David Kuppenheimer, Tamika Olszewski, Brooke Welles

Commissioners Absent – Bryan Barash, Eli Ingraham

Advisory Council Present—Viviana Planine

Student Representatives Present—none

Guests – Jessica Aker Archer, Cindy Greene, Steve Hassan, Eric Rosenbaum

Staff to the Commission – Linda Walsh, Shin-Yi Lao

The meeting was called to order by Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Chair, at 7:00 p.m. in room B15 in Newton City Hall.

1. Introductions
2. Minutes: vote on November 2019 minutes deferred
3. Hate incidents - nothing to report
4. Complaints received
  - One complaint received from a Newton Housing Authority resident. Complainant was referred to MCAD and case was discussed with NHA Director of Resident Services.
5. Student reports
  - No student representatives present
  - V. Planine reported that in December 2019 NSHS started a mentoring program for Latinx and African American students
6. Women's Suffrage Celebration
  - C. Greene reported on progress of event planning.
  - HRC may co-sponsor several events and participate in the culminating event in November 2020
7. MLK Day Community Celebration
  - The theme this year is "Know your neighbor." Events will include activities for children and a follow up conversation on 1/23 hosted by True Story Theater.
  - Volunteers needed to usher and staff the HRC table
8. Genocide exhibit
  - City Hall gallery has been reserved.
  - C. Greene will reach out to Newton Historical Society and Hattie will reach out to NPS about places to show the slideshow.
  - S. Hassan suggested a screening of Dawnland, a documentary about Native American children taken from their homes and placed in boarding schools and with white families.

One of the filmmakers lives in MA and might be able to do a screening followed by discussion.

- “Etched in Glass,” a film about Steve Ross, a Holocaust survivor who lives in Newton, could also be shown.

9. Pride

- Honor Susan Church and Alex Kolodney
- Would like to honor someone who identifies as LGBTQ+, not just an ally. Hattie will ask Susan if there is someone she would like to bring as a co-honoree.
- Consider multiple events throughout the month or at the end of May. Will pair with a Newton Cares event to highlight the intersection of LGBTQ identify and mental health.

10. Misc.

- B. Welles’ book #Activism: Networks of Race and Gender Justice comes out 3/3/20. Discussed hosting a book discussion led by the author.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55. Next meeting on February 4, 2020 at 5:30pm in room B15 of Newton City Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Hattie N. Kerwin Derrick