

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes of February 4, 2020

Commissioners Present—Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Bryan Barash, Jane Brown, David Kuppenheimer

Commissioners Absent – Eli Ingraham, Tamika Olszewski, Brooke Welles

Advisory Council Present—Bruce Apotheker, Viviana Planine

Student Representatives Present—Imani Fonfield

Guests – Melissa Chu, Cindy Greene, Dana Hanson, Steve Hassan, Kyra Norsigian

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

The meeting was called to order by Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Chair, at 6:00 p.m. in room B15 in Newton City Hall.

1. Introductions
2. Minutes: vote on January 2020 minutes deferred
3. Hate incidents
 - Several recent incidents at Newton North High School of students using the N-word in hallways and on social media. Dr. Turner sent out an email to parents on 2/3/20 addressing the incidents and the incidents will be investigated by police on 2/5/20.
 - A Citizens Police Academy is planned for March 2020 by the Newton Police Department.
 - On 2/26/20 from 4:00-5:00pm the Newton Police Department is hosting an open house for individuals with developmental disabilities to let them know about available services.
4. Complaints received
 - No complaints received
5. Student reports
 - The Black Student Union at Newton South High School is planning several events for Black History Month.
6. Women's Suffrage Celebration
 - C. Greene reported on progress of event planning.
 - "The Abolitionist Origins of the Women's Suffrage Movement" book talk on 2/25 at 7:00pm at the Newton Free Library is the first in-person event.
 - Possible showing of the movie "On the Basis of Sex," HRC to cosponsor.
 - Website to launch soon.
7. MLK Day Community Celebration Feedback
 - The new elements of the event (children's space, follow-up event) were successful. Some highlights included student speakers, the "turn and talk," and young people participating in the follow up event.

8. Genocide exhibit/Movie screening

- Hattie has reached out to Toby Romer to discuss genocide education in Newton Public Schools.
- Cindy reached out to Newton Historical Society – they are considering possibilities for displaying the exhibit.
- On 2/24 a Holocaust survivor will be speaking at Newton South High School.
- The movies “Dawnland” and “Etched in Glass” will be shown at the Newton Free Library on 4/1 and 4/29, details TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32. Next meeting on March 3, 2020 at 7:00pm in room B15 of Newton City Hall.
Respectfully submitted by Hattie N. Kerwin Derrick

DRAFT