

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes of May 4, 2021

Commissioners Present – Brooke Foucault Welles, Jane Brown, Sue Lowcock, Tamika Olszewski, Rabbi Keith Stern

Commissioners Absent – Bryan Barash, Eli Ingraham, David Kuppenheimer

Advisory Council Present – Bruce Apotheker, Viviana Planine

Student Representatives Present – Imani Fonfield

Guests – Cindy Greene, Steve Hassan, Emily Isman, Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Robert Pierson, Nevena Pilipovic-Wengler, Eric Rosenbaum

Staff to the Commission – Shin-Yi Lao

The meeting was called to order by Brooke Foucault Welles Chair at 7:02pm on Zoom

1. Minutes from April 6 meeting approved
2. Newton police report – Officer Rosenbaum
 - WSYMCA – Two tenants, one White and one Black, got into an argument. The White tenant used racial slurs and was charged with a hate crime.
 - A fight happened between two young people where Anti-Semitic comments were made. The youth officer is investigating.
 - Sticker from the Nationalist Social Club New England, a neo-Nazi Group, on a street pole
3. Complaints received – Shin-Yi Lao
 - No complaints received
4. Student reports – Imani Fonfield
 - Diversity Festival in June at NSHS
5. Updates from the Mayor’s Office – Hattie Kerwin Derrick
 - 5/6: free screening of Dawnland
 - 5/13: Overdue/Historic Newton event on voting rights
 - 5/25: Overdue event on COVID-19 and structural racism
 - 6/19-6/20: Two events for Juneteenth, both held at the Hyde Center
 - City Seal redesign project is looking for a designer
 - There are open seats for other commissions – see City website for more information and application
6. Updates from Commissioners
 - 2021 Annual Report Outline, major sections:
 - i. Existing data and a summary of HRC activities
 - ii. Qualitative assessment of major issues from the year
 - iii. Goals for future data collection
 - 2021-22 meeting schedule
 - Commission on Disabilities, Mental Health Subcommittee: update from Jane Brown on upcoming events

7. Zoning Redesign Focus Group – Nevena Pilipovic-Wengler
 - Presented on community engagement focus groups
 - HRC will co-host a focus group

8. Upcoming Events
 - Pride Honorees:
 - i. Three youth honorees – Ella Bailey, Rachel Sontheimer, and Zoe Goldstein, cofounders of Sunbowzine
 - ii. Adults – LBTQ+ health care workers from NWH

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm

Next meeting June 1 at 6:00pm (Pride flag raising)

Respectfully submitted by Brooke Foucault Welles