



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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**City of Newton, Youth Commission**  
**February 8, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Attendance/Introductions:**

Eitan Leshem, Vikram Schefke, Zack Gusenoff, Phoebe Anthony, Priscilla Situ, Aanika Monta, Ethan Dhadly, Rhiannon Esposito, Kaveri Krishnamoorthy, Nick Makura, Matthew Wrigley, Andrew Feinberg, Audrey Wei, Kenneth Tsay, Ryn Leffler, Preethika Vemula, Georgia Finkelstein, Emma Zhang, Chloe Lee, Chloe Lyons, Julia Dun Rappaport, Grace Cai, Abby Shin, Tenley Hanson & Meghan Murtagh.

**Meeting called to order at 6:38 p.m.**

**Youth Commission Updates:**

- **Documents to Review & Sign:**
  - Code of Conduct Policy
  - Emergency Contact Sheet & Photo Release
- **Black History Month**
  - Members information about different events going on withing their schools; North (BLAC)/BB&N/speaker at MLK.
  - Meg shared list of events/activities happening during the month in Newton
- **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month**
  - Students for the Second Step put up display at City Hall about red and green flags in a relationship, display extension at Newton North coming soon.
  - [Love Is Respect](#) (second step has many resources like this one)
  - [Teen Safe JCFS](#) event, P.A to share details with YC.

**Presentation & Discussion:**

- **Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Director of Community Engagement Inclusion - City of Newton**
  - Explained role - line between Diversity, Equity & Inclusion coordinator, and Community Engagement work
  - “Concierge for the City” – part of Hattie’s role is to ensure everyone feels welcome regardless of background
  - Working with groups on various projects/programs:
    - antisemitism programs
    - youth around trans issues/rights feeling welcomed and included
    - Lunar New Year celebrations and spreading the word
  - June Pride Month: different events throughout the city celebrating Pride other than Flag Raising Event.
    - Youth participation wanted! What would WE like to see? Party at Hyde Community Center? Something in the place of Boston pride weekend that no longer happens (plays, story times, library events, etc.)
  - Reviewed listing of events on city website for Black History Month
  - May event about Holocaust Remembrance
  - If we have ideas and want to collaborate, we should reach out and we will get help making it happen in the community!
  - Juneteenth Event - going back to Hyde Center
  - Volunteer opportunities throughout months

- Pride Consortium!!! - NEXT MTG March 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Links to follow
- Q&A

### **Subcommittee Updates:**

- **Community Engagement:** 3 guest speakers last mtg, they need lots of youth voices/members on this topic.
  - Josh Ostroff, planning dept (proposal - long term infrastructure plan)
  - Jenn Martin, Safe Routes to School (bike rodeo)
  - Ed Olhava, BikeNewton
- CE subcommittee working with transportation committee to make roads safer and accessible for student bikers
- Shared many resources of upcoming events
- **Communications:** First Youth Commission newsletter for the year coming soon, using template from past to fill in new stuff
  - March 1st release date
  - Topics:
    - Bike Safety (Bike Month!)
    - Black History Month
    - Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
    - Women's History Month
    - NGV - Creative Minds: Honoring Artists of Color Event (May 13th)
- **Mental Health:**
  - Narrowing down list of ideas
  - De-stigmatization campaign
- **Guest Speaker:** MM to send email update to the group

### **Other:**

- Next Gen Voices - Creative Minds: Event for Honoring Artists/Students of Color on May 13th
- Brainstorming next mtg for Pride and Mental Health Awareness Month
- Keynote speaker from MLK day, potential March speaker from Lasell University
- South's GSU (gender sexuality union) presentation on what LGBTQIA+ rights/issues look like in different countries and cultural communities and connection to mental health
  - Create our own event like that!

**Meeting closed at 7:43 p.m.**

### **Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30 pm.  
Newton Free Library