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**Belmont Human Rights Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 9, 2018  
Belmont Town Hall, Conference Room Four**

**Present:**

HRC Members: Tony Moroso, Chair; Paul Solomon; Seneca Hart; Sandi Gubin; Sue Boylan; and Carl Brauer.

HRC Liaisons: Kathryn Bonfiglio and Charlene O'Connor (BAR); and Captain J. Peter Hoerr (BPD).

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.
2. The minutes of the January 9, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously, as amended.
3. Report on phone line and email correspondence: an email was received regarding the accusation that secretary William Galvin had made a racist slur against Josh Zakim, a candidate for MA Secretary of State. The email author had presumably sent this email to many organizations, of which the Belmont Human Rights Commission was but one. It was decided that the Human Rights Commission did not need to take action on this email.
4. Assignment of responsibility for minute-taker and checking email and phone line contacts:

January	Sandi
February	Sue
March	Tony
April	Carl

5. Sponsorship of Global Cinema Film Festival of Boston. The commission discussed becoming a "supporter" of the festival to be held in Belmont, in March. Supporter-ship entails publicizing the event, having a commission member(s) make several appearances, and perhaps hosting discussions of relevant films. The Commission voted to approve becoming a sponsor contingent upon the BAR's board's willingness to share use of its email list to publicize the event and Kayta and Fran's willingness to make appearances at the festival on behalf of the Commission. Kathryn will check with the BAR board about using their listserv for this purpose.
6. Belmont Public Library Book Talk: *The Girl at the Baggage Claim: Explaining the East-West Culture Gap* by Gish Jen.

The commission approved sponsoring this event. The commission's principal job will be publicizing the event. Fran will attend the event to show the Human Rights Commission's presence. Tony will ask Fran for an event flyer/specific details to pass on to Seneca so that she can update the HRC Facebook page.

7. The Martin Luther King breakfast 2018

- Tony will MC the event.
- The Commission agreed to have the Belmont Police Department use the event to collect items for the non-profit organization Cradles to Crayons.
- There are fewer musical acts than last year. The extra time will be filled with a neighbor meet-and-greet. Previous year's participants have enjoyed this element of the breakfast and often commented that they would like more of this. The Commission agreed that the icebreaker question "talk about a significant moment in civil rights in your lifetime" would be used.
- Tony suggested asking the Principal of the Middle School, Mike McCallister, to make a few remarks at the breakfast; the commission approved this idea. Kathryn is asking the Black in Belmont high school students if they would be willing to make about 5 minutes of remarks.
- The program will be finalized this coming Thursday.
- Despite regular daily conversations with the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, we have been unable to locate a CART transcription specialist. We are still waiting to hear if one will be available for the event.
- Several volunteers from the high school have volunteered to set up. More volunteers are needed for Sunday afternoon, and also Monday, at the end of the event, to help break down.
- Melissa Hart will provide childcare in the gym.

8. The Commission considered including a list of all the bias-related incidents Captain Peter Hoerr has informed us about over the course of the past year in the Commission's Annual Report to the town. It was agreed that the report should include such a list. Captain Hoerr has agreed to comb through past meeting notes to compile such a list.

9. Other Updates

- Kathryn Bonfiglio, Charlene O'Connor and Captain Hoerr reported on an event they attended directly before this HRC meeting in which teen members of the group Black in Belmont spoke about their experiences. All three spoke highly of the event. The youth of color at the event reported having experienced racist incidents to a one. One such

incident involved a Muslim girl being told that she was an "ISIS terrorist" while another involved an African-American boy being told "We should hang you from the tree."

- Reggie Gibson will be coming to the high school for Diversity Week.
- The Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra will be showcasing African American composers next month.
- Community Health Network Area 17 (CHNA-17) will be speaking to BAR about Equity and Mental Health.

10. Our next meeting will be in Conference Room 1 across from the Town Clerk's office on February 1, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alexandra Gubin  
Secretary Pro Tem