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**Belmont Human Rights Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, October 3, 2017**

**Belmont Town Hall, Room 4**

HRC Members: Seneca Hart; Carl Brauer; Paul Solomon; Fran Yuan; Tony Moroso, Chair;  
Sandi Gubin

Belmont Against Racism (BAR) Liaison: Kathryn Bonfiglio

Belmont Police Department Liaison: Captain J. Peter Hoerr

1. Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.
2. Minutes of September 7, 2017 were approved.
3. Tony talked about a potential new member, as well as reminding members that Kathleen Curzie Gatos and Sandi Gubin are new additions to the Human Rights Commission.
4. Fran covered the phone line/email and minute taking for September in Seneca's absence, and Seneca will be assigned for October. Tony suggested that new members be added into the assignment cycle and others agreed.
5. Fran provided information about the upcoming Belmont GSA on Sunday, October 29th from 6:00-8:30 pm. Seneca said she would pass the information on to the Belmont High School GSA. Fran also talked about Belmont GSA's upcoming name change in an effort to be more inclusive to the transgender community.
6. Tony introduced the MCAD Spreading Education to End Discrimination (SEED) Program, which provides presentations statewide to teach vulnerable minorities about their rights, including topics such as workplace and housing discrimination. He suggested the BHRC request a presentation in the spring, it was well received and members agreed to table further discussion until December.
7. MLK Breakfast (January 15, 2018) plans and assignments were repeated. Fran will work with Ms. Melnikoff at the high school to find volunteers. Fran will also reach out for childcare supervisors, coordinate chairs, and organize food. Nan will handle publicity and Barbara has agreed to handle music and the sign board. Seneca described the process of advanced registration last year, and it was agreed that the minute taker/communications person for January could take care of that. Kathryn announced that Natalie will be able to do name tags for MLK, but would appreciate help. Kathryn also offered to ask about building and custodial fees for the breakfast. Members agreed to keep the tickets at \$5 per person and \$10 per family.

Tony asked for a list of speakers to contact, and a motion was passed to allow Tony to reach out on the BHRC's behalf to the agreed upon speakers.

8. Seneca reported nothing new at the high school and agreed to talk to students about joining the Human Rights Commission, especially with Seneca and Jia graduating this year.
9. Captain Hoerr followed up on two bias complaints against a police officer in Belmont that were brought up at the last meeting and reported that no new information had been reported.

Captain Hoerr also reminded members that as of October 1, 2017 the official speed limit in densely populated areas of Belmont will be 25 mph and that police will be enforcing the new law. At the prompting of other members, Captain Hoerr explained the definition of densely populated.

10. Kathryn urged members to view the summary of an upcoming bill for criminal justice reform on Will Brownsberger's website that would help Massachusetts avoid unnecessary incarceration, promote healing within prisons, and help inmates get back on their feet after their time has been served. Kathryn expressed that this was a step in the right direction from a human rights point of view.
11. Members reported back from the Massachusetts Human Rights Commission meeting, and said that efforts are being made to compile a list of all the official Human Rights groups in Massachusetts.
12. The next meeting was confirmed for Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. and Tony reminded everyone that the meeting will be held in the conference room.
13. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:13 p.m.

Recorded and submitted by Seneca Hart, Recording Secretary for this meeting