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**Belmont Human Rights Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, February 1, 2018

Belmont Town Hall, Room 1

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7 pm.

The following were in attendance:

HRC Members: Carl Brauer, Sandi Gubin, Anthony Moroso, Paul Solomon, Fran Yuan

Belmont against Racism Liaison and member: Kathryn Bonfiglio, Meg Anderson

Meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

1. Minutes from the Thursday, January 9, 2018 meeting were approved as amended. Sandi will submit the minutes to the Town Clerk's Office.
2. Sandi reported that there was a call on the phone line from a woman hospitalized in Dorchester who felt she had a right to an attorney and did not want treatment. She was court-ordered to take medication. Sandi felt that we couldn't take direct action but found the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee. She will contact this committee so it can become involved, if appropriate.  
There was an email from the Global Film Festival with the schedule of films. Anne Gladfelter of BASEC (Before and After School Programs) also contacted the HRC to say she was interested in learning more about how to conduct discussions about race at the middle school. She and Kathryn spoke after the MLK breakfast.  
Tony will monitor the phone line and email until March's meeting.
3. MLK Breakfast Recap: Tony reported that he received a lot of positive feedback about the breakfast. Members congratulated him for his organization and planning of the event. There was an overflow crowd. Kathryn said BAR would like to send Byron Rushing an honorarium.
4. The Housing Trust committee would like to come to the March meeting to discuss what they are doing and how the HRC might support their goals. Everyone agreed to invite them.  
Kathryn reported that on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm, the Trust would be presenting the Housing Plan to the Board of Selectmen. She encouraged people to attend.
5. Global Film Festival: Kathryn for BAR and Fran and Kayta for the HRC will be facilitating after film discussions for films yet to be determined. They will also talk to the audience about what Belmont against Racism and the HRC do. Kathryn chose three films to consider. We need to encourage others to come to the films.
6. Fran raised the idea of having an HRC logo we could use on print material when we co-sponsor events. Sandi's mother is a graphic designer and Sandi volunteered to approach her about designing something for us.
7. Valentine's Day event at the library on Saturday, February 10: Lindsey Rinder will talk to the children about Valentine's Day celebrations around the world. Cards made will go to various community groups. The HRC voted to co-sponsor this event.
8. Fran reported that the HRC has a fund kept in the town's general funds account. The HRC fund currently has \$174.12. Fran requested she be permitted to spend about \$30 for refreshments for the Gish Jen event on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>. The HRC voted to approve this.
9. Fran reported that there will be a Transgender Anti-Discrimination Veto referendum in November

aimed to reverse the bill that prohibited discrimination based on gender identity in public accommodations. The wording is confusing. A “yes” vote supports continuing the original prohibition.

Carl also mentioned other important issues on the November ballot including referendums for increased taxes on incomes above \$1M and a sales tax cut. There are also senatorial and gubernatorial races.

10. Tony reported that Sue Boylan has resigned from the HRC. Tony has tried to reach Mirela Duda about her status on the HRC but hasn’t heard anything from her. Tony agreed to write an article for the Belmont Citizen Herald to find a new member.

Seneca will graduate this year. Members felt it that having a high school student was of great benefit. Fran will approach Alice Melnikoff and persons involved with the Social Justice course and Black in Belmont to inform them of the HRC opening in the fall. Seneca will also be encouraged to identify students who might be interested.

11. BAR Liaison report: Kathryn reported that she and Capt. Hoerr attended the Beyond Ferguson discussion. She also attended Regie Gibson’s talk and performance at the high school today. She announced the Arlington Philharmonic was performing music of African American composers at a concert on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 8 pm at the Arlington Unitarian Church. High school students will be attending the play Unveiled which will be followed by discussion. Teen Empowerment will be doing some training for the Boy Scouts in Belmont. Both of these are funded by BAR. There is a METCO Rally on ] February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

12. Tony reported there is the Police Academy for citizens who want to learn about police work.

13. Kathryn reported that the Criminal Justice Reform bill, which Senator Brownsberger has championed, is still in committee. Belmont Police Chief McLaughlin went to the state house to speak in favor of the bill which would allow individuals to claim residency in the town from which they graduated from High School for the purpose of qualifying for civil service jobs.

14. The HRC Annual Report will include a report from Captain Hoerr regarding bias incidents he has reported to HRC.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Yuan