

Belmont Human Rights Commission
Belmont Town Hall, Conference Room 1
February 2, 2012
7:00 p.m.

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Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance: Fran Yuan, Chair, Carl Brauer, Paul Solomon, Pallavi Khare, Nan Donald, Jirair Hovsepian, Regina O'Brien, Julie Cicalese, Barbara Watson

Belmont Police Liaison: Captain Peter Hoerr

Belmont Against Racism Liaison: Kathryn Bonfiglio

1. January Minutes. The Meeting Minutes from January 5, 2012 were accepted.
2. Phone Line Report and Assignment. Julie reported that there was no activity on the phone line in January. Upcoming phone line assignments are as follows: February-Pallavi; March-Regina; April-Paul.
3. The Many Faces of Beech Street Center video project. Jirair reported that 7 seniors have been interviewed and two interviews have been submitted to the Belmont Media Center for broadcast. Paul Solomon's interview will air numerous times in February (Cable Channels 9 and 29 and on the BMC website (belmontmediacenter.org)). While initiating a new project where students might interview other students was discussed, it was determined that that would not be pursued at this time but that additional seniors representing Belmont's diversity be recruited for the current project.
4. Beech Street Center Welcome Sign. Fran reported that, at the request of the Beech Street Center, she has been working with the Center on a sign which will welcome visitors to the Center in many languages.
3. Lost in Detention. Carl reported that nationally known Immigration Attorney Susan Cohen has agreed to be a discussant at the HRC's program on March 15th (7pm in the Belmont Library Assembly Room). Ms. Cohen will join Samuel Tsoi of the Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA) to view and discuss the Frontline documentary "Lost in Detention" with the Belmont community. Carl will write an article for the Citizen Herald and will spearhead publicity. Fran will use her community lists and Kathryn will seek permission to share information about the program with the BAR list serve.
6. Featuring Diversity on the Town Website. Fran reported that there is receptivity to adding photographs of residents of the Town to the Town website. It is believed that photographs of people, in addition to Town buildings, on the website will help make the diversity of the Town more visible.
9. One Book One Belmont. Carl reported that a book has been selected, but has not yet been announced.
10. Leadership. The following officers were nominated and approved: Chair: Barbara Watson; Vice-Chair: Carl Brauer; Secretary: Regina O'Brien, effective for the March meeting.
11. Commemoration of the 97th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of April 24, 1915; Request for Board of Selectmen Proclamation. Jirair asked that the Commission request a proclamation from the Board of Selectman acknowledging the 97th anniversary of the Armenian genocide and to honor the memories of the victims and survivors. At Jerry's request, the Board of Selectman has issued a

proclamation in prior years, but Jerry has recommended that the Commission seek the proclamation this year as the matter is an important community issue and the Human Rights Commission is an appropriate body to make such a request. A commemoration event will take place at the State House on April 20th at 11 am at the Massachusetts State House. It was agreed that the matter of requesting a proclamation would be discussed at the March BHC meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Watson

Next Commission Meeting: March 1, 2012, 7:00 pm