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**Belmont Human Rights Commission**  
Belmont Town Hall, Conference Room 1  
April 5, 2012  
7pm

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members in attendance:** Carl Brauer, Regina O'Brien, Barbara Watson, Fran Yuan, Paul Solomon, Jerry Hovsepian

**Belmont Police Liaison:** Captain Peter Hoerr

**Belmont Against Racism Liaison:** N/A

**Public:** N/A

February Minutes. Carl moved for the minutes to be accepted, Regina seconded, all in agreement. March minutes remain informal, as we did not reach quorum in March.

Phone Line Report and Assignment. Phone is not accepting calls or messages. Fran is investigating; once it is corrected, she will inform the group and Paul will take the phone line for the remainder of April.

Commemoration of the 97<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of April 24, 1915; Request for Board of Selectmen Proclamation: HRC discussed sending a letter/email of support. Barbara moved, Paul seconded, all in agreement. Barbara will send an email to the Selectman communicating our support. Event on 4/20/2012 will be attended to Jerry. (Note: Fran will direct any mail for the HRC to Barbara's attention in the future.)

Lost in Detention Viewing: Carl provided an event read out; generally considered a good event, but sparsely attended. Group discussion around Susan Cohen's focus around the fact that immigration offenses are civil in nature and not criminal; many members of the public may not know that distinction. Discussed the use of words (illegal v. undocumented) and how we could do our part to continue to change the narrative. Also reiterated the idea of using Letters to the Editor as a medium to provide feedback to lawmakers and the public. Jerry will ask the Media Center director about showing the film on the public access channel.

Many Faces of Beech Street: Jerry reported that Olivia Lang interviewed Martha Cotton in February; currently eight (8) interviews are being aired and there are four (4) more scheduled to be scheduled for filming. (Looking for a student to interview Maria Lopes; Fran will provide Jerry with a contact(s).) A DVD of the airing episodes is available at the Beech Street Center. Discussion around showing an edited one-hour version in the Fall as a food-related event. Jerry will bring copies of the completed interviews for Commission members to review and choose portions to be included in the edit. Fran reported that the Chinese ESL teacher did not want to be videotaped, so she did an audio recording; how can or will we use the resulting media?

Featuring Diversity on the Town Website: Report out from Fran that we can't put photos on the homepage, but we could put some of the "Newcomers" area and/or our Commission page. Commission looking to identify people to include on the website; if we have names, give them to Fran. We are looking for either a quote about living in Belmont or a "one word" to describe living in Belmont to accompany the photo and the person's name

One Book, One Belmont: Carl had no new news to report; announcement on book selection expected in May, with schedule for accompanying programs.

Ice Cream Social: Commission discussed our sponsoring of the Ice Cream Social to celebrate the legalization of same-sex marriage again this year. Fran moved, Carl seconded, all in agreement. The Ice Cream Social will be on May 17, 2012 from 5 to 7pm on the Town Green in front of Wellington Station.

2012 Meeting Schedules: Commission agreed to not hold meetings in July and August 2012. Regina (Secretary) will not be able to attend November meeting due to travel; another notetaker will have to be assigned for that month.

Collaborating With Other Groups: Barbara to work with Fran as part of leadership transition to get to know other groups in town and divvy up the relationship management. Groups including the Friends of the Library, Belmont World Film, and Belmont Against Racism were discussed.

Town Day 2012: Town Day is on May 19, 2012 from 10am to 3pm. We agreed that we will not be having a table this year.

Commission Leadership: Discussions around having positions run from July to June; agreed that appointments made earlier in the year hold for 2012. Fran will be gone for approximately five months in 2013. Carl and Paul have agreed to seek reappointment. Discussion around finding a new high school student to replace Pallavi Khare, who will be graduating; Barbara will follow up with a selected student. Barbara will also follow-up with Commission members not in attendance to confirm participation for 2012; once we have more information about the status of membership, Fran will reach out to the *Belmont Citizen-Herald* to post for any openings. We are all tasked to actively recruit interested neighbors, etc. Next change in leadership is scheduled for June 30, 2013.

Liaison Report - Belmont Police: Captain Hoerr reported that a member of the Belmont police force recently returned from Afghanistan and would be rejoining the force. Belmont has had three members of the force serve in Afghanistan and two in Iraq. Veterans are on the top of the list for the next wave of hires, as there may be two to three openings on the force upcoming. Belmont currently has 46 authorized officers. Captain Hoerr also reported that he is now on the MCAD trainer list and can provide training on anti-harassment.

Adjourned: Carl moved to adjourn, Regina seconded, all in agreement.

**Next Commission Meeting: May 3, 2012 at 7pm**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Regina O'Brien