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**Belmont Human Rights Commission**  
Belmont Town Hall, Conference Room 1  
May 3, 2012  
7pm

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members in attendance:** Carl Brauer, Regina O'Brien, Barbara Watson, Fran Yuan, Paul Solomon, Jirair Hovsepian, Julie Cicalese, Nan Donald  
**Belmont Police Liaison:** Captain Peter Hoerr  
**Belmont Against Racism Liaison:** Kathryn Bonfiglio  
**BHS Student:** Daniel Vernick  
**Public:** N/A

April Minutes. Paul moved for the minutes to be accepted, Carl seconded, all in agreement. Small typo/adjustments/edits submitted.

Phone Line Report and Assignment. New phone line instructions are available, no messages reported for April by Paul S. Assignments: Carl in for May, Fran for Julie, Jerry for July, Julie for August. Barbara and Regina can pick up if there are any coverage issues.

Many Faces of Beech Street: Commission members (Fran, Julie, and Regina) will review DVDs and pick highlights and provide times and themes. Fran to send questions around, Regina to share example.

Featuring Diversity on the Town Website: Fran to start gathering pictures and will get a sign-off/release sheet. Sandra C. from Selectman's Office has retired, so Fran will make a new contact.

Commemoration of the 97<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of April 24, 1915; Board of Selectmen Proclamation. Notes provided by Jirair: 97<sup>th</sup> Armenian Genocide Commemoration at State House on 4/20/2012 very successful with Senator Will Brownsberger presented joint House/Senate Resolutions to playwright Joyce Van Dyke of the recent highly successful play "Deported" and also to former Senator Steven Tolman, Present of the MA AFL-CIO. Haig Hovespian, 13-year-old violinist from Chenery was the musical performance of the evening accompanied by his mother Avi Hovespian. The performance is available on YouTube. Rev. Gregory Haroutunian, paster of the First Armenian Church of Belmont gave the Invocation. Belmont HRC was recognized as being in attendance along with many other groups including Belmont Against Racism. On Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm the Board of Selectman at their office in the Town Hall will present a proclamation commemorating the Armenian Genocide.

Beech Street Center Info Table: Having a member of the commission sit a table for a number of hours; Carol brought up Wednesday morning as a busy time at BCC. Fran can coordainte; Barbara is available

Mon/Wed, Carl is also available. India called Fran, and Fran will work with her to find a date. Reminder: Bring in food and a camera to get pictures.

#### Possible Co-Sponsorship Opportunities for 2012:

One Book, One Belmont Cosponsorship: Carl moved, Regina seconded, all in agreement. Announcement re: book selection to happen in May.

Friends of the Belmont Library: Jenny (from the FoL) and Barbara discussed the Author Series. Jenny will keep the HRC in mind.

Gish Jen: World & Town (integration of Chinese-American families); Fran could coordinate with the author to see if we can get her for Friends of the Belmont Library. Discussion around involving high school students being difficult. Barb to talk to Jenny about stipend, Fran to talk to Gish.

#### Liaison Reports:

Belmont Against Racism: Kathryn B. shared that the BAR Annual meeting for 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary (May 20, 2012, 6 to 8pm) at the Temple Beth El. Discussions around the inception and what they are doing now. No admission fee, all invited, refreshments available. HRC members have been added to the mailing list. Reminder regarding May 17<sup>th</sup> for Ice Cream Social. Shared information on Statewide Fair & Impartial Policing Website and *Cruz Reynoso: Sowing the Seeds of Justice* (movie) at Harvard Law School.

Belmont Police: Captain Hoerr had no news to report; reminded commission members to lock your cars and homes!

#### Other Business:

Clergy Council: Fran met w/ the Clergy Council, discussed equal marriage to get an understanding of the spectrum of perspectives; potential for PFLAG to come in and to do an educational program; churches signaled that they may be interested in cosponsoring an event (depending on the topic). General overview is that the churches are supportive of the "human" but not supportive of marriage; the legalization of same-sex marriage made them change their approach – they couldn't ignore it anymore. Fran to come to next meeting with more information; Regina available to partner with Fran.

Public Conversation Project: Carl attended a dinner with Kristin Tippet speaking; out of Watertown, Mass.

National Labor Relations Board: Regina shared that the NLRB has temporarily adjourned requirements re: posting NLRA rights in workplaces.

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

**Next Commission Meeting: June 7, 2012 at 7pm**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Regina O'Brien