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Belmont Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 6, 2014
Belmont Town Hall
Conference Room 1

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:06 pm.

The following were in attendance:

Members: Carl Brauer, Paul Solomon, Jirair Hovsepian, Edie Stringfellow, Daniel Vernick,
Barbara Watson, Fran Yuan

Liaisons: Captain Peter Hoerr, Belmont Police Department

Belmont Against Racism: June Roberts

1. Members: Commission members welcomed new member, Edie, and introduced themselves. We should be looking for one more commission member.
2. Minutes: The January and December minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Police report: Captain Hoerr reported that a community service officer was available.
4. Phone Line: Dan reported that there were no phone messages received this month. Fran will answer phone line in February.
5. Film: BAR has asked if the HRC would co-sponsor the film, "What makes me white?" Fran will send the link to members so they can preview it and vote on this in March.
6. A film about the Republican Party and support among blacks was discussed.
7. MLK Breakfast: Barbara felt that the MLK Breakfast was extremely successful. Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, ministers and Katherine Clark were good. The speaker, Sonia Chang-Diaz, tied things together for everyone. Jazz band and violinist were great. Next year, maybe music should come after speaker. Great having Shauna and Ashley Townsend on the program.
Reviewed how the program went, who did what, and the division of labor between BAR and HRC. Reviewed attendance estimates (at least 200 people), expenses, and money taken in. Money for METCO will be presented at school committee meeting held in Boston with Boston parents. Taxis are used for transportation. Fund held by school department.
8. We should be looking for one more commission member.
9. Discussed having, Marian Ryan, Middlesex DA's office, talk to us. What does she say about the black community and issues she deals with? She came to speak to high school re: alcohol. Devotes time to prevention.
10. Discussed future of MLK and BAR.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.