

BELMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2014

2014 JUN -6 AM 9:06
Approved by the Commission 6/5/14
RECEIVED

Present: Carl Brauer, Jirair Hovsepian, Paul Solomon, Edie Stringfellow, Daniel Vernick, Barbara Watson (Chair), Fran Yuan

Absent: Nan Donald

Also Present: Capt. Peter Hoerr, Liaison, Belmont Police Department

The meeting was convened at 7:04PM in the Flett Room of the Library.

The minutes of the April 9, 2014 meeting, as amended, were approved unanimously.

UPDATES AND REPORTS:

- * Hot line: No contacts were made by phone or e-mail in April. Paul will cover in May and Barbara in June.
- * State House Armenian Genocide Commemoration, 4/11/14: Belmont was well represented: Barbara Watson, Lalig Musserian, all 3 Selectmen, Senator Brownsberger and Representative Rogers. The Governor also attended.
- * One Book One Belmont events:
 - 4/23/14: A lecture on the revolutionary poet, Phillis Wheatley, was well attended.
 - 5/06/14: Nathaniel Philbrick, the author of this year's book "Bunker Hill, A City, A Siege, A Revolution", will speak at the Beech St. Center.
- * Freedom To Marry Anniversary Table at Town Day, Sat. 5/17/14: This initiative replaces the Ice Cream Social which would have conflicted with Town Day. Attractions being considered for the table: a question and answer board, a time line for gay marriage and a raffle with prizes of gift certificates to be supplied by local vendors. There will be a reception afterwards at Bonnie Friedman's house.
- * 2015 Martin Luther King Breakfast: Margaret Marshall's office confirmed receipt of the letter asking her to be the keynote speaker. The Commission voted unanimously to ask Governor Patrick to speak if Justice Marshall declines. Byron Rushing might also be contacted if necessary.
- * Liaison Reports:
 - High School: Daniel Vernick reported that Diversity Week and the Hunger Banquet were successful. Members of the Gay Straight Alliance are completing the murals in the cafeteria.

Police Department: Capt. Hoerr noted the gun buy-back program sponsored by the Department and he stated that the Chief would like to offer the Commission a tour of the Department's facility. The possibility of the tour occurring before or after the Commission's next meeting on June 5 will be explored. Capt. Hoerr suggested that we might invite Lt. Kristin Daly, who works with a vulnerable population, to a Commission meeting. He also stated that the Department is training officers to administer naran to those suffering from opiate over dose.

Belmont Against Racism (BAR): upcoming events:

- Book discussion-"Warmth Of Other Suns", by Isabel Wilkerson, May 8, 2014, Assembly Room, Library
- Mother's Day Walk Against Violence, in Boston, May 11, 2014. Contact Kathryn

Bonfiglio for car pooling.

* Vacant Commission Position: Carl Brauer has been talking with an interested citizen who could not attend this meeting.

It was recommended that the Commission advertise the position in the Belmon Citizen-Herald and The Belmontonian.

* Recommendations For Events And Activities For The Coming Year:

Other book events

Participation in the Gay Pride Parade, June 14

Explore issues related to poverty in this country and our high incarceration rate.

Next meeting, Thursday June 5, 2014, 7:00PM, site to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Solomon
Secretary Pro Tem