

Belmont Human Rights Commission

2014 SEP -5 PM 2: 16

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Belmont Town Hall
Conference Room 1
7:00 pm

1. The June monthly meeting of the Belmont Human Rights Commission was called to order on Thursday, June 5, 2014 at approximately 7:05 pm in Conference Room 1 of Belmont Town Hall. Copies of the meeting agenda and draft minutes from the May meeting were available for those who needed them.
2. The following members were in attendance: Carl Brauer, Nan Donald, Jirair Hovsepian, Paul Solomon, Barbara Watson and Fran Yuan. Belmont Police Department Liaison Captain J. Peter Hoerr was also in attendance.
3. The minutes of the May 2014 meeting were reviewed and accepted with minor amendments.
4. Report on phone-line or e-mail correspondence. Paul reported that there was no correspondence in May. The schedule for the upcoming months is as follows:
 - June-Barbara
 - July-Carl
 - August-Edie
 - September-Fran
5. Reappointments. Several members' terms are expiring and they are seeking reappointment. One position is vacant and an application has been submitted for that position.
6. 2015 MLK Breakfast. A discussion took place about the breakfast and a possible speaker for the breakfast which is scheduled for Monday, January 19, 2015. It was determined that Dr. Charles Ogletree would be asked next to speak and that Fran would ask Connie Williams to help with approaching Dr. Ogletree. A number of additional possible speakers and topics for MLK speakers were discussed, including, but not limited to elected officials, Department of Public Health and Mental Health officials, LGBT issues, healthcare disparities, genocide, sex trafficking, suicide among young Asian American women, and prison reform.

This discussion led into a discussion of the possibility of the Commission sponsoring a series of activities or panels on ethnic groups, given the diversity of the Belmont population. Jerry

shared some of his experience of his childhood and family's experience as part of an ethnic Armenian family. Fran volunteered to make some contacts about possible topics.

Again, this year, Commission leaders for the MLK event will be as follows:

Daniel-website, registration

Barbara-logistics (confirm school availability and invitation to principal, confirm Belmontian participation)

Fran-food, religious council participants

7. Updates on recent Town events. Fran and several other members staffed a BGSAC table at Town Day which celebrated Massachusetts ten year anniversary of marriage equality. A number of local businesses generously donated close to 20 prizes for distribution at the table and a lot of interesting conversation and education took place. Contributing businesses included Belmont Studio Cinema, Hollingsworth (formerly Ben Franklin's), Chocolate Dream, Craft Beer Cellar, Moozy's Ice Cream and Yogurt Emporium, Quebrada Baking Company, Patou Thai, Seta's Café, Shangri-La Restaurant, Sofra Bakery and Café, The Spirited Gourmet, Vicki Lee's, Vintages, and Dunkin Donuts (Munchkins and Coffee). The business community's generous response was greatly appreciated.
8. A group from Belmont will participate in Boston's annual Pride Parade on June 14, 2014.
9. The Commission will have a table at Meet Belmont which will take place on August 26, 2014 from 6-8:30 pm at Chenery Middle School. Barbara will represent the Commission. Other members are welcome to help out if they are available.
10. Liaison Reports
Belmont Police Department: Captain Hoerr reported that the Chief has volunteered to conduct a tour of the police station on September 4, 2014. It was determined that the Commission's meeting would take place from 7-8 pm and the Chief would be asked to give the tour at 8 pm. All are welcome. In addition, Captain Hoerr mentioned that the Department will be working to draft a written policy on transgender persons in custody.
11. Please note that the next Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2014. From 7-8 pm, the Commission will meet in the Town Hall and at 8 pm the formal meeting will end and there will be a tour of the Belmont Police Station with Chief McLaughlin. As always, the meeting is open to the public, and any one in attendance is welcome on the tour.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Watson

Belmont.hrc@gmail.com

(617) 993-2795

town.belmont.ma.us