

Belmont Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Belmont Town Hall

Conference Room 1

7:00 pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM
2. Present: Carl Brauer, Nan Donald, Mirela Duda, Jerry Hovsepian Paul Solomon, Daniel Vernick, Barbara Watson, Fran Yuan. Absent: Edie Stringfellow

Also Present: Capt. Peter Hoerr and BHS students Sarah Jane Henman and Jia Zhang
3. Minutes from the Thursday, April 2, 2015 meeting were approved by unanimous vote. Minutes from the Thursday, May 7, 2015 meeting, as amended, were approved by unanimous vote.
4. Report on phone-line and e-mail correspondence

May-Jerry reported one phone call from Sheriff Koutoujian's office asking about a conference to be held in Belmont. There were no email messages.
5. Confirm Phone Line assignments and meeting minute taker for phone line assignments going forward: June-Paul (Barbara e-mail back up); July-Edie; August-Barbara; September-Fran. It was agreed that the Chair should not be responsible for minutes while chairing a meeting.
 - a. Update HRC High School Liaisons: it was agreed that Sarah Jane would be the High School liaison (and apply to the Board of Selectmen to be a member of the Commission) for the next year and Jia would apply to succeed her the following year.
7. Update: non-discrimination and gender identity
There was extensive discussion:
 - * Fran stated that GLAD and MCAN will represent individuals in this area.
 - * It was also noted that legislation on gender identity was approved in 2012 but the public accommodations issue was "carved out" of the legislation.
 - * It was agreed that the Commission should consider sponsoring an educational forum on gender identity, and that Fran and Nan would look into this possibility.
8. 2016 MLK Breakfast January 18, 2016
After Fran listed a number of possible speakers, it was agreed that the following would be approached in order, allowing 3 weeks for a response:
State Senator Linda Dorcea Forry, Boston City Councillor Ayanna Pressley, Sharon Reilly, Executive Director of Cradles to Crayons
9. Updates and Reports:
 - * BGSA Potluck was not well-attended;
 - * Criminal Justice Reform-Incarceration Panel: well attended, very informed panel and a responsive audience

* A Path Appears: a survey conducted after the event will be discussed at the Unitarian Church on June 10.

10. Commission Chair Election

by unanimous vote, Barbara Watson was re-elected Chair, and Mirela Duda was elected Vice Chair.

11. Other Upcoming Local Events

*June 12, Friday, 4-8:30 pm, Belmont's First Annual Spring Fest, A community building event, Belmont High School Community Connection. This event has been postponed.

*June 13, Saturday, BGSAC at Boston Pride Parade, walk with Belmont walkers, contact Fran, meet Belmont group at Alewife T

*August 25, Tuesday, 6-8:30 pm, Meet Belmont, Chenery Middle School.

12. Liaison Reports

There were no liaison reports

13. New Business, Other

Metco Funding:

The governor's proposed FY '16 budget includes a reduction of \$1.3M from the current total Metco budget of \$19M.

The Commission voted unanimously to send the following resolution to our State Senator and Representative:

" The Belmont Human Rights Commission values highly the Metco program and is deeply concerned about the proposed reduction in Metco's budget for the coming fiscal year.

The Commission urges you to support restoration of full funding for the Metco program."

14. Date of next Commission Meeting: Thursday, September 3, 2015, 7 pm.

The meeting schedule--the first Thursday of each month-- will be confirmed at that meeting.

The Commission thanked Daniel Vernick for his excellent service on the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Solomon

Secretary Pro Tem