

2015 OCT -2 PM 2:07



Draft
Belmont Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 10, 2015
Belmont Town Hall
Conference Room 1

The following were in attendance:

Members: Darren Bouwmeester, Carl Brauer, Nan Donald, Mirela Duda, Sarah Jane Henman, Jirair Hovsepian, Paul Solomon, Barbara Watson, Fran Yuan, Jia Zhang

Liaisons: Belmont Against Racism: Charlene O'Connor

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

1. **New members:** Darren Bouwmeester, the HRC's newest member, was introduced. Sarah Jane Henman was also appointed to the HRC. They will each serve a one year appointment.
2. **Meeting minutes:** The June meeting minutes were accepted as submitted.
3. **Phone line:** There was one call, picked up late. Barbara returned the call and referred the caller to appropriate resources. Barbara reminded all those checking the phone line to do so every 2 days. It was agreed that we would put together a list of resources so those who answer phone messages know to whom callers can be referred. A number of resources were mentioned including: Mobile Crisis for Children; Mass. Department of Health for Adults; Behavioral Health Initiative, and the Consumer Information Guide at <https://www.masspartnership.com/>

The phone line schedule is as follows:

September- Fran	February – Sarah Jane
October- Darren	March - Jerry
November-Carl	April - Paul
December- Nan	May- Edie
January – Mirela	June- Fran

The person answering the phone will start right after that month's meeting.

4. **Meetings** for this year will be held on October 1, November 5, and December 3 in 2015. January 7, February 4, March 3, April 7, May 5, and June 2 in 2016.
5. **Meet Belmont:** Barbara and Edie were at the HRC table during the event. Some people did stop by. Barbara had business cards, HRC description cards, and flyers with the Diversity Collage on it. The business cards were handed out for distribution. Fran will check on consent forms from those on the collage before they are distributed.

6. Jia said that she set up an **HRC Facebook** page. A motion was made to accept Jia and Sarah Jane as hosts to the Facebook page. This motion was accepted unanimously.

7. MLK Breakfast:

a) There was discussion about the desire for receipts from the breakfast going to the MLK Transportation Fund rather than to the general support fund. This year the schools charged for rental tables and custodians.

b) Speaker: Linda Dorcena-Forry wants to speak earlier than usual. Will Brownsberger will be asked to introduce her.

c) Ticket Price: After discussion about raising the ticket price, the price will remain \$5 per person and \$10 per family. It was agreed that having METCO parents sell tickets this year worked out very well. In Belmont, most attendees pay at the door. All funds from the Boston sales went to the METCO Transportation Fund. The question was asked: how many people write a check or pledge a donation at the breakfast? This was not known.

d) While the Transportation Fund was not enough to cover these expenses, this has improved. Diane Wilshire, METCO director, made it clear to students that they can only use this funded transportation for extracurricular or academic after school activities.

e) Food: Fran requested that someone else help out so that another person would know the procedures. Mirela volunteered to assist.

f) Ministers: Fran agreed to ask two clergy members to say the invocation and benediction. She will invite either the Monsignor from Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church or the First Armenian Church and another clergy.

g) Child Care: A person to head this up is needed.

h) Music: Some suggestions were a combined Belmont/METCO student group or a participatory program. Jerry will ask the Belmont Media Center to cover the event.

8. Gender Identity Program: Fran described an event showing the Frontline program, Growing Up Trans, on gender identity followed by a panel of parents, a transgender participant, and possibly a representative from GLAD/BAGLY. Fran and Sarah Jane thought that holding it at the First Church in Belmont would be a good idea. Carl agreed to approach the Social Action Committee there to ask if they would be interested in co-sponsoring it and what date might work. Early November was the time suggested.

9. Upcoming events:

- The film, The Aryans, will be shown on December 28th at the Belmont Studio Cinema at 7 pm. The filmmaker will be in attendance for a Q and A following the showing.

- Belmont Serves will be held on Monday, October 12 from 8:30 to 1 pm. Interested individuals should meet at St. Joseph's Church.

10. Next meeting: Capt Hoerr will discuss police issues (use of force, etc).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Yuan