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Belmont Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, December 3, 2015
Belmont Town Hall
Conference Room 1**

The following were in attendance:

Members: Darren Bouwmeester, Nan Donald, Mirela Duda, Sarah Jane Henman, Jirair Hovsepian, Barbara Watson, and Fran Yuan.

Liaisons: Belmont High School: Sarah Jane Henman; Belmont Against Racism: Kathryn Bonifiglio, June Roberts; Belmont Police Department: Captain J. Peter Hoerr.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Absences: Carl Brauer, Paul Solomon.

1. **Meeting minutes:** The November meeting minutes were adopted with minor edits.
2. **Phone line and e-mail:** There was no activity on either the phone line or e-mail. Phone line and minute-taking assignments: December, Nan; January, Mirela.
3. **Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast (Monday, January 18, 2016 from 8:45 – 11:00 a.m.)**

Mirela will continue her efforts to secure someone to supervise child care for younger children age 2 and older.

A brief discussion about promoting the event was held. Sarah Jane confirmed that she has updated the online registration form and it is ready to use. It will be sent to Bob Reardon in the Selectmen's Office to post on the town website. Registration will also be posted on the Belmont Against Racism website and the Belmont HRC page on the town website. Sarah Jane has created a Martin Luther King Breakfast event page on Facebook, in addition to the Facebook page she set up for the Belmont HRC.

Flyers will be printed shortly and HRC members will be bringing them to local businesses for posting and further distribution.

Fran will be in charge of setting up food donations but may enlist other HRC members if necessary. She is also still working on the programming. Possible persons to lead the invocation and benediction were suggested.

Music programming was briefly discussed with plans to contact potential performers.

METCO parents would like to sell tickets again this year. As in prior years, all proceeds from the METCO parent ticket sales will go directly to the METCO Support Fund.

4. **Gender Identity Program:** Fran reported on the HRC co-sponsored program on gender identity which included the Frontline documentary "Growing Up Trans," and a panel of speakers. Attendance was excellent, as were the speakers. It would be nice to have seen more students in attendance, however, and the possibility of having a follow-up event was discussed. Fran plans to discuss this possibility with the GSA advisors at the high school.

5. **Liaison Reports:**

Sarah Jane reported no new updates from the high school.

Captain J. Peter Hoerr reported no new updates from the Police Department.

Kathryn Bonifiglio reported on the documentary "He Named Me Malala" which Belmont Against Racism co-presented with Belmont World Film on November 16th at the Studio Cinema. Boston University's Dr. Adil Najam, inaugural dean of the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies and Professor of International Relations and of Earth and Environment led a productive discussion following the film. The film showing happened right after the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, and the audience was packed.

Kathryn also reported that local comedian Jimmy Tingle will be performing May 7, 2016 in a show at Belmont High School that will benefit Bristol Cove, the Belmont Food Pantry and the METCO Support Fund. This event is a follow-up activity from the A Path Appears committee.

She also reported on the dialogue on race relations that continues at the UU Church, that she and Captain Hoerr attend. She mentioned that on December 13, youth from Boston involved in Teen Empowerment will join the group for a potluck. She also pointed out the podcast on race, which also appears on PBS, "So well spoken," and the Harvard Chan School's Forum's video-casts on health and race, moderated by Phillip Martin, which are also available on the Chan School Forum's website.

6. The next Commission meeting will be on Thursday, January 7, 2015 at 7 PM.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Donald